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# THE JERUSALEM POST

MAZDA TOURS  
JORDAN TOURS  
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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19633 WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1997 • YEAR 5757 • 2 Iyar 5757 NIS 150 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

**PA releases Daoud Kuttub**  
Page 2

**NATO welcomes Russia**  
Page 5

**Tnuva's Palestinian competitor**  
Money Magazine

**Index**  
Business ..... 8  
Crossword ..... 11  
Movies/TV ..... 11  
Opinion ..... 6  
Sports ..... 10  
World News ..... 5

## Congressmen: Block PA aid over land-sale death penalty

**By HILLEL KUTTLER**  
WASHINGTON — Jesse Helms and Benjamin Gilman, chairmen of the Senate foreign relations and House international relations committees, have pledged to withhold assistance to the Palestinian Authority to protest its death penalty edict on Arabs who sell land to Jews.  
In a letter sent late last week to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the two stated they will oppose US financial aid until she or Palestinian authorities provide assurances that the death penalty legislation is withdrawn. US aid totals \$500 million in a five-year program begun in late 1993 following the signing of the Oslo accord.  
Gilman and Helms wrote that the assistance is extended on the assumption that PA areas would be governed "according to international norms, with due respect for human, political and civil rights." "Daily reports of extrajudicial killings, torture and repression of the free press provide ample proof

## No breakthrough at summit



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (left) heads to a news conference with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after their summit at Sharm e-Sheikh yesterday.

**By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and SARAH HONG**  
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak failed to break the two-month deadlock in the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks yesterday. Their summit meeting in Sharm e-Sheikh ended with little more than an agreement that more talks are needed.  
Netanyahu will brief the inner cabinet today on his talks with Mubarak. It will also be the inner cabinet's first meeting to address a resumption of permanent status talks with the Palestinians.  
Egyptian envoy Osama el-Baz is due to travel to Gaza today to report to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat on the outcome of the summit, a Palestinian official said.  
"We discussed ways to put the peace process between us and the Palestinians back on track," Netanyahu said after meeting Mubarak.  
He rejected a reporter's suggestion that the summit failed: "I wouldn't call what went on today a failure. It was a positive beginning."  
But Mubarak indicated that no solution had been found to the main problems at the heart of the crisis — the construction on Har Homa and settlements in the West Bank.  
Asked about the possibility of freezing the settlements, Mubarak said, "I cannot answer that question candidly. I cannot give an unequivocal answer. We have no choice but to try to discuss, one way or another, how we can prevent this problem."  
He said that he would try to set up a tripartite meeting of himself, Netanyahu and Arafat — but he could not guarantee that Arafat would agree.  
At the summit, Netanyahu brought up the matter of Azzam Azzam, who is on trial for espionage in Egypt, and demanded that the Palestinians fight terrorism.  
Government sources described the summit as a first step to renewing the stalled peace process and stressed Egypt's central role in the region. They said there is no doubt Egypt is now willing to play a positive role in breaking the ice between Israel and the Palestinians.  
The sources said el-Baz will be returning to Jerusalem soon and that US envoy Dennis Ross will return only after the Egyptian efforts achieve progress.  
The coalition was heartened by reports that Netanyahu had made no concessions on Jerusalem or settlements. The same reports propelled the opposition to pronounce the summit a total failure and Meretz submitted a no-confidence motion.  
Cabinet secretary Danny Naveh denied there was any talk of resuming the negotiations after the summit. He accused the opposition of "invention."  
"No goal was agreed on," he said. "We are in the midst of an important political development. It was discussed in advance with el-Baz, that the meeting would serve as a first step to progress, and that was achieved, as both Netanyahu and Mubarak said."  
MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet), chairman of the Land of Israel Front, congratulated Netanyahu "for not having given in to all that Arafat had demanded. He did not halt construction in Har Homa and wonder of wonders — the sky did not fall down."  
MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) said that "from what Netanyahu's people say, he seems to have stuck to his guns and things look good. But we weren't there and I don't know for sure. Prior to expressing an opinion I would like to hear the prime minister's report to the cabinet and to the Knesset. I would like to be sure that things indeed are as good as we are told they are."  
But Hanan Porat (NRP) said that he knew from his own sources that "Netanyahu acted honorably. He did not break up the summit, but he also did not compromise our vital interests."  
MK Silvan Shalom (Likud) was pleased by another aspect: "The very fact that there was a summit and that more summits will follow is encouraging and it could eventually blaze the trail for the stalled peace process, without any concessions on essential security interests."  
However, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres observed that "Netanyahu simply does not have the coalition's sanction to make any meaningful moves to rescue the peace process."  
His would-be successor, MK Ehud Barak, said that "the coalition's make-up and Netanyahu's policy are a sure recipe for paralysis. Netanyahu has destroyed whatever trust remained after he was elected. In the end, we will have no peace, no security, and more terror."  
Labor leadership candidate Yossi Beilin branded the summit "a total failure." He said that Arafat had been asked by the Palestinians to wait in his office during the summit for a possible lunch invitation should the two reach agreement to resume the peace talks, but no such invitation came.  
"Netanyahu was bound to fail," another leadership candidate, MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, said. "He came to the summit handcuffed (by his coalition) and only attended in the first place so that President Ezer Weizman would not meet Mubarak before him."  
Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid argued last night that "if there is no formal renewal of talks then there is no other conclusion but that the summit has failed utterly and miserably. The talks will not be renewed until the settlements are put in deep freeze."

## German terrorism chief: Iran's missiles can hit us

**By STEVE RODAN**  
Iran is developing ballistic missiles that can reach deep within Europe and is working intensively to develop nuclear warheads, German counterterrorism chief Peter Frisch told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.  
"They are getting missiles that can reach 3,000 km., and they can reach not only Israel, but Germany," said Frisch, president of the Cologne-based Office for the Protection of the Constitution. "If they can build atomic bombs and put them in their missiles, this is dangerous for us."  
Israel has previously warned of a Russian-Iranian program to develop missiles with a range of 1,500 km. by 1999.  
Frisch, who participated in a conference on terrorism at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, said he could not estimate how close Iran is to achieving nuclear capability.  
"I'm not a technician," he said.



Peter Frisch (Yoni Rai)

## Lack of failure at Sharm is a success in itself

**By MARK HELLER**  
Since the press conference at Sharm e-Sheikh heralded no major breakthrough, it is tempting to conclude that the summit was a failure. This judgment is certainly premature. It may also be completely mistaken. After all, the success of a summit depends on what people expect from it.  
Those who wanted a dramatic announcement have every reason to be disappointed. But those who valued any meeting which didn't end in acrimony can be at least provisionally satisfied with the results.  
This includes both Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.  
The former is again able to dispute the criticism that his policies have destroyed any prospects for peace with the Palestinians and any semblance of normal relations with the rest of the Arab world. The latter can disprove the notion that Egypt's role in the peace has become pernicious, or worse, irrelevant. Netanyahu, by surmounting Egypt's positive contribution, has given Mubarak a clean bill of political health just as decisions about the renewal of foreign assistance are coming up before an increasingly skeptical US Congress.  
But beyond the immediate interests of the two protagonists, the failure of the summit to end in failure can be of some comfort to everyone concerned that stalemate in the peace process leaves, not a stable status quo, but rather an increasingly inflammable situation on the ground. The relaxed atmosphere, body language and the commitment by both leaders to continue working for a revival of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations at least buy a little time.  
But there is still no indication of what ideas, if any, were discussed. Some topic other than the weather must have led Netanyahu and Mubarak to talk longer than scheduled and to delay the start of the news conference.

## Shas weekly drops tobacco ads

**By JUDY SIEGEL**  
Although known for years to oppose smoking and quietly to tell his family and followers that smoking violates Halacha, this was the first time that Yosef has made such a forceful public statement about smoking.  
His address was delivered at the Yavdim Synagogue in Jerusalem's Bukharan Quarter and broadcast to Shas centers by satellite.  
"After [Yosef's] statement, how could his newspaper continue to advertise cigarettes?" said Eli Simhayof, *Yom Leyom's* manager. "From tomorrow, we will have no such ads. Maybe we'll replace them with ads for soft drinks."  
Asked whether MK Aryeh Deri, a chronic pipe smoker, would be a candidate for 40 lashes or would kick the habit, Simhayof said: "You can't expect that every Shas supporter will be seen without a cigarette in his mouth tomorrow. It's a gradual thing."

## Peace begins at home — and on the roads — for Interns for Peace

**By DAVID RUDGE**  
Helping to promote safety on the roads and "peace at home" among Jews and Arabs is the aim of a new project being launched by Interns for Peace.  
"Tolerance is the key word in the three-pronged program which unites Orthodox, liberal and secular Jews and Israeli Arabs in working toward a common goal — helping to reduce the carnage on the roads."  
The scheme was unveiled at the group's annual general meeting in Tel Aviv last night. Interns for Peace is a non-profit organization which promotes Jewish-Arab coexistence through community development projects.  
The project will train instructors to go into schools and teach youngsters about highway safety.  
They also will discuss the need for civility and tolerance among Jews and between Jewish and Arab citizens.  
"This is a pilot project within the school system to unite Orthodox, liberal and secular Jews, and Israeli Arabs in the saving of lives," said Interns for Peace international director Rabbi Bruce Cohen.  
"We have been running a road safety project in the Jewish and Arab sectors for several years, but the new pilot scheme is different because it is also a Jewish unity project."  
"It seems very apparent now that we have to be working for internal harmony and peace among ourselves just as much as working for peace with our Arab neighbors."  
Cohen said the organizers already had received a great deal of encouragement for the scheme from members of the Orthodox community, including schools.  
"Everything will be done to ensure that all cultures and traditions will be honored, with the aim of encouraging mutual tolerance and respect," he said.  
"The project leaders, the interns, will [include] Orthodox students from Bar-Ilan University, who are now being recruited to serve as role models, especially in the Orthodox classrooms."  
"They will go into the classrooms as a triad — Orthodox and liberal Jews and an Israeli Arab — helping to teach pupils in nine schools about highway safety."  
"We will be starting with sixth graders in the center of the country and hopefully expanding the project later to 11th graders," Cohen said.  
It also was reported that a Palestinian branch of Interns for Peace, headed by Hisham Kullab of Khan Yunis, has been established with the aid of funds from the European Union.  
The branch already has begun working on a number of joint projects, including meetings between Israeli and Palestinian youngsters and electronic get-togethers via the Internet.

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## NEWS

in brief

## Khatami: Iran will not disrupt Mideast peace

Iran's president-elect Mohammed Khatami said yesterday that the Islamic republic opposes the Middle East peace process, but would not take any action to disrupt it.

"Regarding the so-called Middle East peace process, we do believe that there will be no possibility for any peace to be established, except with the restoration of the legal rights of all Palestinian people," Khatami said at a news conference.

"Of course, we are not going to have any intervention in this matter and we are going to leave it to the people of Palestine and the governments and the people of the region," said Khatami.

"But we do keep the right to express our views regarding the matter... and with a scientific, realistic approach we do think that the current process will not come to any conclusion."

Reuters

## Netanyahu offers support to Deri

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered moral support to Shas leader Aryeh Deri last night at a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the Orot Hateshuva educational facilities.

"Aryeh Deri, don't let your spirit fall, because we are with you, and will always be together," Netanyahu said in a speech. He then emphasized the importance of Jewish education.

In his address, Deri spoke of the need to educate young Sephardim in order to provide good leaders for the next generation.

Iim

## UN to probe Israeli human rights practices

A United Nations committee will leave for the Middle East on Friday to investigate Israeli human rights practices affecting Palestinians and other Arabs in the territories, according to a UN statement released yesterday.

The three-member committee will visit Egypt, Jordan and Syria from May 30 to June 9. The committee will hold a preparatory meeting in Geneva today and tomorrow.

Reuters

## Ex-husband of murdered woman arrested

The ex-husband of Lod resident Subam Zebida, 31, found dead Monday morning in a citrus grove near Moshav Ben-Shimon, was arrested yesterday on suspicion of murder. He was later brought before the Rehovot Magistrate's Court and remanded for 10 days.

Police, who said she was badly beaten, had first believed she was killed for reasons of "family honor." However, after investigating they discovered a conflict between the couple, who divorced three years ago. Police said they are continuing to investigate other motives in the case.

Iim

## Man gets 10 years for molesting daughters

A 42-year-old Tel Aviv man was sentenced to 10 years in prison and two years' suspended yesterday, after being convicted by Tel Aviv District Court of sexually molesting his two daughters and his minor sister-in-law from the time they were 10. The case had been known to welfare authorities, who did not file a complaint with the police, but sent the family for counselling. The molestation then stopped for a while, but when the man resumed, he was charged.

Iim

## Two killed in Haifa traffic accident

Four people, 25, of Hureish, and Huri Vehial, 22, of Kafr Rama, were killed yesterday morning when their car crashed into another car in Haifa. Two other people were injured in the accident, one moderately and one lightly. According to an initial investigation, they were driving in the wrong lane.

A man and his four-year-old son were seriously injured last night when a car hit them while they were crossing a street in Rishon LeZion.

Eleven people were lightly injured yesterday in six accidents on the Jerusalem-Ma'aleh Adumim road. They were taken to hospitals in Jerusalem.

Iim

## Videoconference on traffic accidents held

A videoconference on preventing children from being hurt in road accidents - linking Jerusalem with doctors in Lisbon, Barcelona and Athens - was held yesterday. Organized by Dr. Yona Amital of the Hadassah-University Hospital, with help from Bezeq and Bezeq International, it allowed experts to discuss suggestions from their own experience.

Judy Siegel

## Broadcaster Yoram Ronen dies

Veteran broadcaster Yoram Ronen, one of the founders of Israeli television, died yesterday of cancer. He was 64.

As a young soldier in the 1950s, he was among the founding team of Army Radio. Later he moved to Israel Radio, as a reporter, announcer and talk-show anchor. It was he who launched the station's prestigious weekly news magazine *Yomani Hashavua*. When Israel Television was established in 1977 he was among the original staff and later became director of its news division.

In recent years he returned to Israel Radio, and anchored newscasts until a few weeks before his death.

As an interviewer he was always courteous, but never hesitated to put tough questions to politicians, disregarding accusations of political bias leveled against Israel Radio and Television in recent years.

The funeral is at Har Hamenuhot at 1 p.m. today. He is survived by a wife, son and daughter.

News agencies

## PA releases Kuttab from jail

By JON IMMANUEL

Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab was freed last night after spending a week in a Ramallah police station cell without being charged, his family said.

Kuttab, who has a Jerusalem identity card and US citizenship, was arrested after broadcasting sessions of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Though his own broadcasts were jammed by the Palestine Broadcasting Corporation, he made tapes which he distributed to local TV stations.

The broadcasts were financed by USAID at the request of the council, consulate spokesman Duncan MacInnes said.

US Consul-General Edward Abington visited PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza on Sunday, when he raised the issue of Kuttab's arrest, MacInnes said.

The PA said the issue was breach of contract of the terms under which Kuttab was permitted to film the council, not freedom of the press, although he was not charged with any offense.

Justice Minister Fehi Abu Medein said

earlier in the day that the PA attorney-general's office was examining Kuttab's file, and added that he would be freed soon if there was nothing to charge him with.

According to Jordanian law, which is valid in Ramallah, Kuttab should have been charged or released within 48 hours.

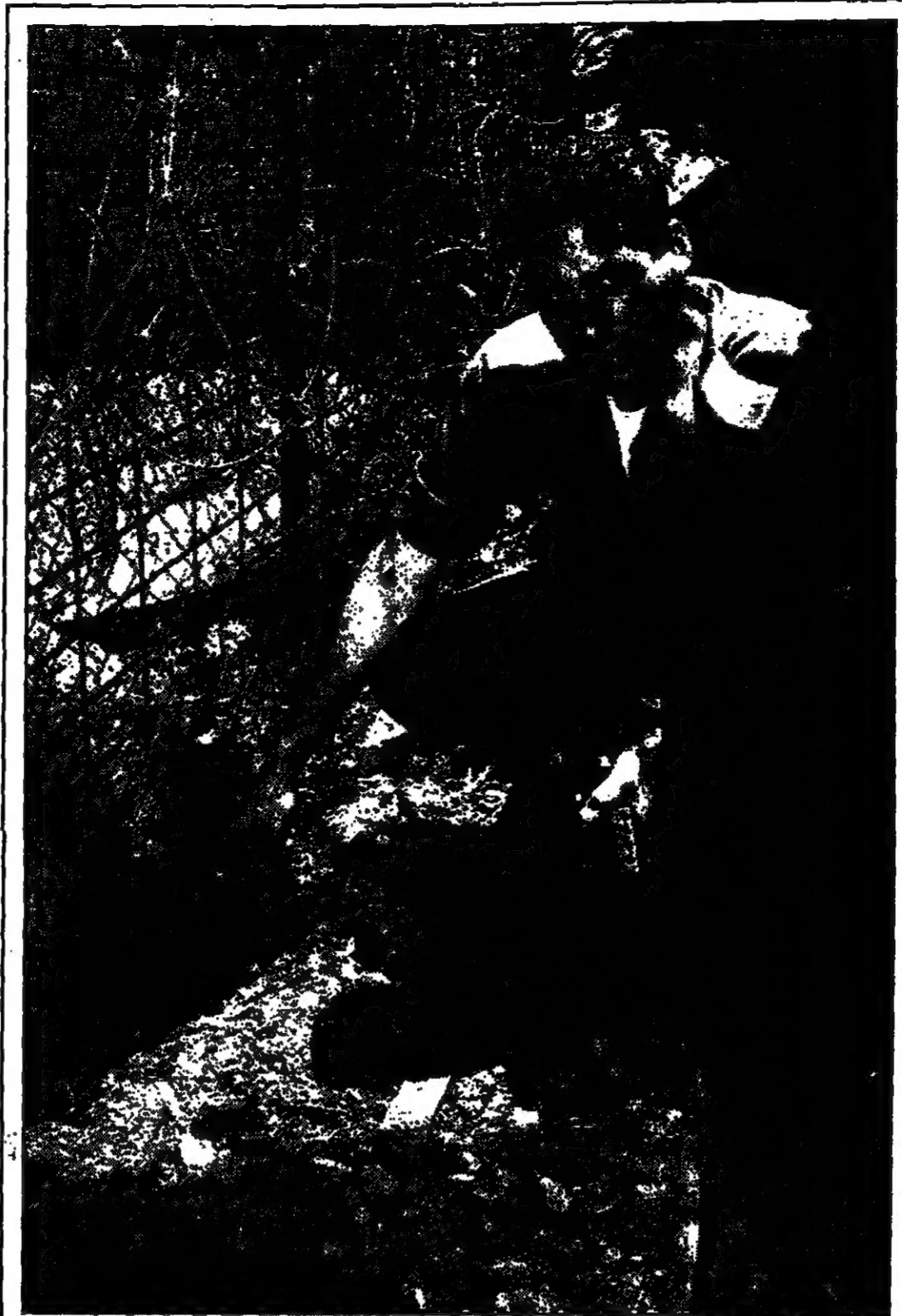
Hillel Kuttler adds: State Department spokesman John Dinger said yesterday that the US had pressed for Kuttab's release.

"It's important that the PA demonstrate its commitment to the rule of law and also that

it show respect for freedom of the press. We will continue to insist in the strongest terms on Mr. Kuttab's release and certainly hope it has just occurred, although I cannot confirm it."

Asked about Palestinian independent human rights activist Bassam Eid's report documenting PA torture, Dinger said the US "opposes any use of torture against detainees and prisoners anywhere in the world."

He said the US raises the matter regularly in its dialogue with the PA.



Hidden hole

A military policeman points to a 40 cm. pit discovered yesterday during routine searches at Megiddo Prison. Tear gas grenades and gas masks were also found.

(IDF Spokesman)

## Knesset debate marks year since elections

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset yesterday marked a year since the elections with a series of motions to the agenda on "one year of Benjamin Netanyahu's government." As Communications Minister Limor Livnat noted in her response, the plenum was almost empty and the only Labor MK who heard all the motions was Shevah Weiss, in the Speaker's chair.

The debate divided predictably into an attack by the opposition and a defense by the coalition.

Ehud Barak, a candidate for the Labor Party leadership, said the threat of war should keep the prime minister awake at night. "For peace, one must think and not fight, act and not just talk and talk and talk," Barak said. He said without the peace process, there would be no security and terror would increase, the military budget would grow and detract from the social agenda.

"Where's the peace? Where's the security?" Barak called to Likud supporters. "Where's the unity of the people? Where's the hope? It's all broken, shattered, sad, and hurting."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid was even more caustic: "It's been a year - which seems forever - how time doesn't fly. How can we define the Netanyahu phenomenon? A false leader; a pretender; someone who throws sand in the eyes [of the people]; someone who denies, cheats and lies. You choose which best fits him."

He gave as examples the promise Netanyahu reportedly made to three people that they would be appointed science minister; a promise to more than one person of the UN ambassador's post; and how he told Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi he could continue in the ministry, while telling former minister Ya'acov Ne'eman could return to it.

Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan called the opposition speeches "pathetic" and noted the poor turnout among opposition MKs. "I prepared a speech, but there is no case to answer here," he said.

Livnat said there is nothing new in the opposition attacks and concluded: "They can continue to criticize, and we will continue to run the country."

## Netanyahu, Peres top Knesset moonlighters

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres earned more for moonlighting than any other MK last year, according to a Knesset report on supplementary income of parliamentarians.

Until October, MKs were allowed to earn up to half the amount of their Knesset salary from outside work. Under an amendment to this law, they are now no longer allowed to earn money from non-Knesset sources, except for writers' fees, artists' fees, and income from rental property.

According to the declaration forms presented in the report, no MK exceeded the limit on outside income.

Netanyahu earned NIS 391,500 from books he has written. His gross wage from the Knesset from January 1996 to June 1996 was NIS 118,371. As party head, he also had a car and office service provided by the Likud.

Peres earned NIS 132,171 from "publications and royalties." He was provided with an office, secretarial services, and a car. His Knesset income amounted to NIS 73,093 for the six months.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) earned NIS 61,947 as director of a non-profit association fighting road accidents.

Labor faction chairman Ra'anana Cohen earned NIS 59,800 from sitting on the board of three differ-

ent companies. Uzi Landau (Likud) earned NIS 32,000 from the directorate of three bodies.

Several MKs had income from positions as the head of local authorities or from the Histadrut. A large number earned money from published articles, including Ariel Sharon (NIS 18,200 from *Yedioth Aharanot* and NIS 6,000 from *Telegraph*); Meretz leader Yossi Sarid (NIS 12,000); and the Likud's Ze'ev Begin (NIS 2,783). Dedi Zucker (Meretz) received NIS 292 from *Ha'aretz* for an article, although the paper paid Shevah Weiss (Labor) almost twice as much.

Anat Maor (Meretz) declared she had earned NIS 4,386 checking students' final papers for the Education Ministry, but the money went directly to her kibbutz.

Altogether 78 MKs submitted the forms, although Moshe Shalit's had to be returned, as he had signed it but not filled it out. The 46 new MKs were exempt. Seven filed late and 14 broke the law and did not submit the declarations, including: Ehud Olmert (Likud), Aryeh Deri (Shas), Health Minister Yehoshua Matza (Likud), Foreign Minister David Levy (Geshet), Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav (Likud), Uzi Baram, and Ephraim Sneh (both Labor).

The Ethics Committee can punish these MKs by anything from a reprimand to deducting a month's salary.

## Record number of admissions at Technion

By DAVID RUDGE

A record number of 10,730 students have enrolled at the Technion this year, marking a renewal of interest in engineering and science among the country's young people, Technion President Zeev Tadmor said yesterday.

In recent years there has been a marked decline in the number of engineering and science graduates, leading to a surplus of vacant jobs in the high-tech industry.

"Over the last decade there was an erosion of interest among youth in science and technology," said Tadmor, speaking at a press conference yesterday on the eve of the meeting next week of the Technion's international board of governors. "This trend has now changed, with a 35 percent increase in enrollment, as a result of a series of efforts by industry and acad-

mics to convince young people that their best future is in science and technology."

Tadmor noted that even now, however, the number of engineers being trained is barely sufficient to meet the current needs of industry, and is not enough to fuel growth.

"In light of the national need for more graduates in high-tech industry, we have a development plan to reach 14,500 students within the next eight years. Hopefully, if current trends continue, we will reach that goal even before then," said Tadmor.

Meanwhile, the Technion announced that the prestigious Harvey Prize is to be awarded this year to US Prof. Roger D. Kornberg, of the Department of Structural Biology in Stanford University's medical school. Kornberg is to be awarded the \$35,000 prize at a ceremony today in recognition of his pioneering genetic research.

## GERMAN

Continued from Page 1

Frisch said German authorities are working to stop German companies from exporting parts for Iran's ballistic missile or nuclear program. He said his agency collects intelligence on such efforts and passes the information on to the offices that deal with export control.

He said Iran, Libya and Pakistan have been trying for years to obtain parts for their nonconventional weapons programs through Germany. He said he didn't know whether the collapse of communism and the growth of Russian organized crime has bolstered the effort.

"I don't know how much of a role organized crime plays in proliferation. But the problem of proliferation by Iran, Libya and Pakistan has existed for some time, and we've been fighting against that for a while," he said.

"If goods which cannot be exported are exported, then we have a right to deal with these companies. We have our methods although we cannot talk about them."

Frisch said he did not expect

## SOCIAL &amp; PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street, H.E. The Mexican Ambassador, Jorge Alberto Lozoya, will address the club.

## SHAS

Continued from Page 1

"We hope Aryeh will cut down and quit under the encouragement of Rabbi Yosef."

"Even more important is that young people shouldn't start smoking."

Shifra Krivolovsky, who holds the exclusive Dubek advertising account to the haredi community, declined to comment on the rabbi's ruling, except to say, "We have our own rabbis, my husband smokes and

his rabbi never told him to stop."

Dubek spokesman Ran Rahav refused to comment.

Rabbi Yehoshua Scheinberg, chairman of the Rafta (Medicine According to Halacha) organization, said he had obtained support from Rabbi Yehoshua Neuwirt, head of the Kol Torah Yeshiva, for Yosef's ruling, including the warnings to tobacco companies and those who sell it.

"We hope to sign up 50 more important rabbis," he said.

The Israel Forum for the Prevention of Smoking greeted

Yosef's ruling with enthusiasm. Forum legal adviser Amos Hausner noted that it supported his statement - delivered when he received a World Health Organization citation for his fight against tobacco - that those who make and sell cigarettes bear moral and legal responsibility for the harm they do.

Shas MK Shlomo Benizri, who is responsible for smoking prevention at the Health Ministry, has consulted with experts to promote its anti-tobacco campaign, with some events to take place on World No-Smoking Day this coming Tuesday.

## SHARM

Continued from Page 1

Their opening statements gave no hint of what this might have been, and analysts are therefore reduced to reading the tea-leaves in their responses to journalists' questions. Perhaps the most significant of these was the prime minister's refusal to take the bait and deny any plans to suspend construction activity.

But Netanyahu cannot sidestep this problem forever. No one can realistically expect him to cancel the Har Homa project, but the distinction he and most other Israelis make between Jerusalem housing

developments and West Bank settlements may provide some face-saving way to resume security cooperation with the Palestinians and get the negotiations back on track.

If Netanyahu is persuaded that a temporary suspension of construction in the settlements is a necessary measure, he can find precedent and legitimization in a similar undertaking by Menachem Begin during the Camp David talks. While Begin talked about new settlements, the issue now is new construction. However, the right wing in the coalition would not be appeased, even if the issue were the same. It has already put Netanyahu on notice about its view of the limits to his mandate.

But unless Netanyahu is prepared to confront his own allies, the time bought at Sharm will slip away. This has happened before, but each new occurrence is not just a repetition of the previous one.

Disappointment and frustration are cumulative, and the result this time would probably include an even greater risk of widespread violence on the ground, along with heavy pressure on Egypt and Jordan, perhaps through an Arab summit, to take steps they would prefer to avoid.

Like other bargaining assets, due is of value only if it is used. The summit at Sharm may be a notable achievement, but if there is no determined follow-up, the success will quickly turn to dust.

## SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

David Rudge adds:

The summit represents an achievement for Egypt, enhancing its image and prestige as a key element in the peace process and a major contributor to the stability of the Middle East, according to Dr. Yoram Meital, an Egyptian affairs expert at Ben-Gurion University.

"The summit was intended to be the first in a series of steps aimed at renewing the momentum of the peace process against the background of the deep differences of opinion between the sides," he said.

"I think that the first target, breaking the ice to enable further meetings to take place, was achieved. If the summit had been a total failure, I doubt there would

have been a press conference or any talk of future meetings."

"Nevertheless, the overall achievements are conditional on the ability of Egypt to persuade the Palestinian side that there is a basis to enable the resumption of the talks with Israel."

"But the outcome of the summit will also depend on the ability of the Netanyahu government to withstand heavy pressure on the home front, in light of what appears to be a renewed promise by the prime minister to uphold commitments that Israel took upon itself in the past, and solve present problems through negotiations."

"It can be assumed that Egypt's involvement as a key and influential element in the peace process, will increase in the near future, although Cairo will make every effort not to harm Washington's crucial role," he said.

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## Visiting UK minister Derek Fatchett: PA must improve accountability

By ELIJAH WOHLGELER

The Palestinian Authority must be financially accountable if it hopes to attract any kind of investment, and its stand on human rights is crucial to the world, according to Derek Fatchett, minister of state in the new British government.

"It is important for the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people that there is proper financial accountability within the Palestinian-controlled areas," Fatchett said yesterday at a news conference.

"Without that it's going to be difficult to attract investment, whether from government bodies or from the private sector. It is in the long-term interest of all Palestinians, because that is the best way to attract the necessary inward investment."

Fatchett was here on a one-day fact-finding mission as part of a tour of the Middle East region. He is the first representative to visit from the new Blair government. He met with President Ezer Weizman yesterday morning, with Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini in the afternoon and with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat last night in Gaza.

Fatchett said the Blair government shares with the previous government "the clear positions of principle that they have taken in relation to the peace process - we support the principle of land for peace, and we will operate within those parameters and that framework."

One of the main principles of the

Blair government, Fatchett said, is the issue of human rights, which he said would be an essential and central part of Labor's foreign policy.

"We have made it clear that there will be no a la carte approach to human rights. There will be no situation in which we drop our concern about human rights because there are other issues that we may consider to be more important," he said.

For the Palestinians, Fatchett said, the issue of human rights "is important for the image that the Palestinian entity represents to the rest of the world. I do believe very strongly that the Palestinian entity has to be based on democratic principles, and the principle of human rights has to be a central part of that. I understand the concern about human rights in the Palestinian entity, and you can rest assured that those issues will be discussed in my meeting with President Arafat."

On the issue of Har Homa, Fatchett said the British government "sees the settlement as creating a barrier to the peace process that was unnecessary, and has created a logjam in terms of the [peace] process. The crucial thing in terms of the process is that we have a dynamic that you create hope and expectations on both sides."

Fatchett said that Britain is not trying to supplant the role of the US in the peace process.

"I'm not for a moment suggesting that we come into the region as miracle workers - there is no British panacea. The key actors in the peace

process have to be the parties and the governments directly affected," he said. "What we are offering to do through our bilateral relations in the region, but also through the EU presidency, is to say that we are keen to be engaged, that there are opportunities there, and we will try to build upon those opportunities."

"If we can set ourselves as a supportive, candid friend, if we are in circumstances where the parties trust us and will listen to us and talk to us, that may be extremely helpful. If at some stage the American talks or the American process stalls but people feel that it might be useful to talk to the European Union envoy, or Britain, or any other party, then we are on hand and are willing to do that."

"We are not in the competition business, we are in the collaboration and cooperation business."



British Minister of State Derek Fatchett (right) talks with Faisal Husseini yesterday during a visit to a hill overlooking Har Homa. Fatchett slammed Israel's settlement policy. "We see the settlements as illegal," he said. (Reuters)

## Private security groups seek legal power of arrest

By RAINE MARCUS

The Israel Forum for Security, comprised of the heads of security divisions in the private sector, is campaigning for a new law to give professional security officers powers of arrest.

The forum, founded in 1988, convened yesterday in Tel Aviv and was addressed by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, who stressed the importance of cooperation between police and private security officers.

After addressing the forum, Kahalani told reporters that the police, Border Police, and Civil Guard volunteers should be augmented by private security officers to help stop terror attacks and crime.

"The forum has 150 members - security officers of academic institutions, factories, hospitals, banks, municipalities, large companies, and government institutions," said chairman Shaul Shitayat, who manages Supersol's loss prevention and security department. "Our aims are to institutionalize security officers, and to ensure that officers are trained professionally. As such, we can help police and other bodies to fight crime and terror attacks."

Currently, added Shitayat, "security officers in all fields are working in a vacuum, and are neither backed nor trained by government bodies. They also have no powers of arrest, and we hope that with the professionalization of security officers, they will be given more powers."

## Justice Ministry tracks Raviv leak

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

There is a need to establish whether or not a member of the security forces leaked information to the media, and that is why Channel 1 political analyst Amnon Abramovitch was questioned by police, Justice Ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed said yesterday. Abramovitch revealed on Sunday that he was questioned twice in the past few months and under caution on Sunday. He said that staffers at the Justice Ministry and GSS officials had also been questioned in connection with his story that right-wing activist Avishai Raviv was a GSS agent.

Abramovitch has refused to reveal his sources for the story, which caused a sensation when he broke it on November 17, 1995, shortly after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

At the time, Abramovitch said rumors Raviv had worked for the GSS were true. He also said that Raviv had been known in the GSS by the code-name "Champagne."

Eshed said former attorney general Michael Ben-Yair ordered the investigation to establish who leaked the information.

The investigation of Mr. Abramovitch was necessary (for that purpose), and not to reveal journalistic sources, as was portrayed [in the media], Eshed said. "It is superfluous to point out that a report presented as sensitive security information from the security forces could affect state security, without relating to the authenticity of Mr. Abramovitch's report."

## 6 Iraqis ask court to block deportation

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Six Iraqis who sought political asylum here three years ago appear today before the High Court of Justice where they have requested an order preventing the Interior Ministry from deporting them. The six, who have not been tried, are represented by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

At a hearing three months ago, Court President Aharon Barak and Justices Dalia Dorner and Yitzhak Zamir said the legality of expelling persons to another country without receiving that country's approval had to be examined. ACRI will contend today the expulsion would constitute a violation of the other country's sovereignty, if that country has not explicitly agreed to accepting those expelled. The court must be convinced those expelled will not risk their lives, ACRI said.

The state plans to argue that no country has been found that will guarantee the Iraqis' lives but that they would constitute a security risk if set free in Israel.

The six - together with 24 other Iraqi refugees - appealed to the High Court two years ago to order the interior minister to free them and grant them temporary political asylum in Israel. The 24 were conditionally freed, but the minister charged the six had been involved previously in anti-Israel activities.

According to ACRI, the six were persecuted in Iraq where they were members of the minority Shi'ite community. If returned to Iraq, they would face death sentences.

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## NEWS

in brief

## Bnei Akiva to fly flag around country

The Bnei Akiva youth movement has decided to fly the Israeli flag at all of its 373 branches for the next three weeks, until Shavuot, in response to the burning of the flag by haredim on Lag Ba'omer. Bnei Akiva secretary-general Yona Goldman said the movement decided to fly the flag "as an expression of our faith and solidarity with the Zionist enterprise, the State of Israel and its elected institutions."

## Ben-Porat asks A-G to investigate two issues

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat has asked the attorney-general to look into two concerns raised by her annual report, on suspicion there may be room for criminal charges.

When the report was published three weeks ago, Ben-Porat recommended that three other issues be turned over to the attorney-general. In keeping with previous years, Ben-Porat has refused to reveal which matters she has asked to be investigated.

Barshava Tsar

## Beduin use solar energy to power computers

Beduin are adding bytes to the traditional gear in their encampment near Beersheba. A computer course featuring laptop computers powered by solar energy has been opened in the camp of the Abu Kef tribe, south of the Shoket Junction.

Despite the difficult terrain at the site, the Education Ministry's southern district office initiated the project at the local school to reduce the gap between Beduin schools in permanent settlements, and those of the more nomadic Beduin.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

## Cellcom adds second dialling code

Cellcom announced yesterday that it had instituted a second dialling code, 053, in addition to its existing 052, to accommodate its growing number of subscribers. Cellcom vice president for marketing Oren Most said the additional dialling code was approved by the Communications Ministry a few months ago.

A few weeks ago, Cellcom announced that it considered its dialling code to be 05, and that callers from Cellcom to Cellcom should add the number 2 before the number; now they will have to add 2 or 3, depending on the number of the subscriber who is called.

Judy Siegel

## Bed dedicated in soldier's memory

A special child's hospital bed was dedicated yesterday at Meir Hospital in memory of Sagi Berkowitz, one of 73 soldiers who died in the helicopter crash at She'ar Yashuv.

The Berkowitz family and the Meditechnika company donated it to the Kfar Sava hospital. The imported bed has a hydraulic system to place the patient in a variety of positions to ease treatment and can be reached from all sides to ease access. It also has a protective cover to keep body heat steady even if the patient is undressed.

Judy Siegel

## Dental conference being held in Jerusalem

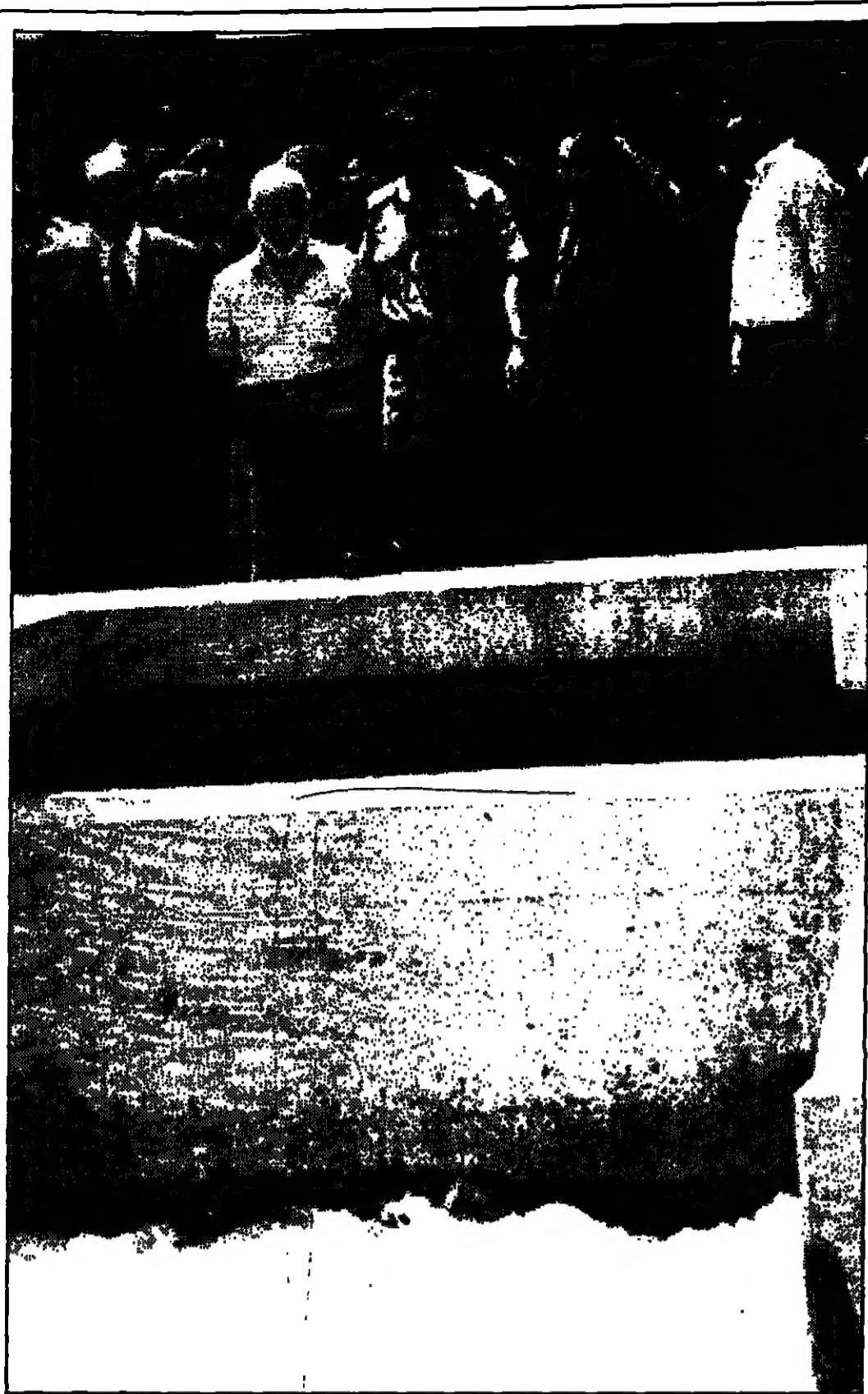
Some 200 dental health experts from 12 countries and 800 Israelis are attending Jerusalem's "Bridge to Peace" dental conference. The three-day conference aims at preparing joint projects for promoting dental health. Organized by the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine and the Israel Dental Association (IDA), the conference is part of the IDA's special program to increase awareness of dental health among Israelis. Hundreds of dentists have been offering free checkups during the month of May. Call 03-6202642 or 5245888 for more information.

Judy Siegel

## Channel 2 reception in Jerusalem improves

North Jerusalem can now tune directly to Channel 2 with the inauguration yesterday of the Second Television and Radio Authority's relay station at Tel el-Pol. The new station is on channel 33 and serves the area from Neve Ya'akov to Ramot and Ma'aleh Adumim.

Helen Kaye



Jordan's King Hussein (second from left) attends a ceremony in Amman yesterday to mark the beginning of increased water supplies to Jordan from Israel. (AP)

## Israel pumps water to Jordan

AMMAN (Reuters) - King Hussein opened the floodgates yesterday to pump millions of cubic meters of water from Israel to Jordan's parched reservoirs, under a deal aimed at patching up a long-running dispute over water rights.

Officials said the king flicked a switch to pump 72,000 cubic metres of fresh water a day to Jordan's northern town of Adassiya from Lake Kinneret, about 10 km to the northwest.

The water supply accord, forged at a secret summit meeting this month, addresses Jordanian complaints that Israel has not honored its water supply commitments under the 1994 peace treaty.

"This is an example of how you can reach agree-

ment through dialogue," the king said. "It is one small step, but there is still a lot to achieve."

But even as the water flowed yesterday the two sides disputed the quantities.

Jordanian officials said the deal called on Israel to supply Jordan with 30 million cubic meters of drinking water a year, continuing until other water sources become available to Jordan, which faces major water shortages.

Israeli officials insisted the total supply would be just 25 million cubic meters a year, with a slightly higher flow in summer and decreased flow in winter, when Jordan's needs are less pressing.

## Water boss warns of bleak future

By LIAT COLLINS

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir painted a bleak picture yesterday of the future water situation in the region.

In a session with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Ben-Meir reportedly described the situation as "a possible threat to the existence of all of us in the region."

According to an official briefing, Sharon said large quantities of water would have to be desalinated in order to provide Jordan with the water mentioned in the peace treaty. In principle, Jordan should receive 50 million cubic meters of water a year, but it has been agreed that until a desalination plant can be established in Jordan, Israel will provide 25 mcm a year of high-quality drinking water. The new desalination plant should be established within approximately three years.

The situation with the Palestinians is more complicated, Sharon said. He said that in Gaza hundreds of wells have been dug which have filled with brackish water and also are endangering the coastal aquifer.

In Judea and Samaria, any act concerning water requires the permission of both sides, leading to what Sharon described as "an absurd situation" in which the Palestinians have to approve water supplies to an IDF base.

He described the problem of pollution from sewage as "serious" and criticized the Hebron municipality for not operating the sewage treatment plant built under the civil administration.

Ben-Meir said the region will face serious problems in both the urban and rural sectors by the year 2010. There is a need for more desalination, he said, which costs approximately \$100 per person a year. Israel could afford this, he added, but not the Palestinians.

Ben-Meir said that the Palestinians' standards for wastewater treatment are lower than Israel's. He also said the Palestinians are allowing sewage to leak out and pollute ground water and soil.

Some 20 mcm of drinking water a year is polluted, he said.

Ben-Meir said the greatest threat is the level of salt in both the water and the soil and that building a system to clean the soil would be prohibitively expensive. He said there also is a very real threat to the mountain aquifer.

## Naharayim killer pleads innocent

AMMAN (AP) - A Jordanian army corporal yesterday pleaded innocent to charges of murdering seven Israeli schoolgirls at Naharayim on March 13.

Ahmed Daqameh also pleaded innocent to other charges of "attempted premeditated murder" in previous years of service in the army, disobeying military orders, and "raising arms" against civilians. The trial is being held before a five-man military tribunal at a heavily guarded army base in an Amman suburb.

If convicted, Daqameh faces execution, probably by a firing squad. As the chief prosecutor, Col. Muhammad Hijazi, read out the charges, Daqameh's mother, Kamleh, sitting among the audience, shouted: "Keep your head up, stay strong, and defend yourself."

Daqameh claims he was provoked by the girls' alleged laughter and ridicule as he prayed while on duty at an army

outpost. His family says he is mentally deranged.

The trial was adjourned until Monday to give the eight-member defense team, including a former cabinet minister and a human rights activist, time to prepare its case.

In his 90-minute indictment, Hijazi said Daqameh had wanted to infiltrate the West Bank in 1993 in an apparent lone attack on Israeli targets, but never carried out his plan.

Hijazi also said Daqameh had attempted on March 13 to attack a bus of Israeli boys, but changed his mind and instead fired on the girls. He is also accused of trying to run over an Israeli man who accompanied the schoolgirls.

At one point, the prosecution claimed Daqameh had told a comrade that he wanted to masturbate when he saw the Israeli schoolgirls. That accusation prompted Daqameh to shout: "These are lies."

## Tourist used fake ID for surgery at Rambam

By JUDY SIEGEL

A foreign tourist lacking health insurance underwent an appendectomy at Haifa's Rambam Hospital using the identity card number of an Israeli living in Haifa. The rise, of which the hospital was unaware, was reported by the Interior Ministry yesterday.

The ministry said the tourist gave hospital workers the identity card number of his friend, Anatoly Andreyevsky of Haifa, to gain admission to the government hospital and undergo the emergency surgery. He was hospitalized from May 11 to May 16, according to hospital deputy director-general Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai, and left without having been asked to pay anything.

According to Health Ministry spokesman Yair Amikam, the tourist failed to provide the actual identity card and hospital staffers did not ask to see it. Under the National Health Insurance Law, all Israeli residents are entitled to free treatment in a general hospital. The Health Ministry said such a case was "rare."

Ben-Yishai said hospital admissions staffers apparently didn't notice anything unusual. "It would be exaggerated," he said, "to demand that hospital staffers act like detectives to prevent such occurrences."

The Interior Ministry did not release the name of the tourist. The Health Ministry, which is investigating, said it learned of the incident when the Maccabi health fund received Rambam's request for payment.

By LIAT COLLINS

A passing comment during a discussion on conversions by the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday put the focus on converts in the army. Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, head of the conversion authority, said that the promotions of soldiers who are listed as non-Jews in their identity cards could be hampered by a low security classification. Field security also could query whether a conversion is genuine or fictitious, Rosen said.

The IDF Rabbinate's representative Lt-Col. Aharon Migdalovitch did not deny that recent converts or non-Jewish immigrants might find it more difficult to be accepted to officers' training.

Several MKs noted, however, that Druze, Circassians and other non-Jews have reached relatively high ranks.

From the figures presented to the committee, it seems some 30 percent of the immigrant army recruits are not Jewish. About 100 soldiers are in the process of converting, at the

IDF's expense. The conversions are Orthodox.

Migdalovitch said the decision to convert is the soldiers' and no pressure is put on them by the IDF.

Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said she took a "serious view" of the situation if, in fact, people who immigrated under the Law of Return but are registered as non-Jews are being prevented from becoming IDF officers. She said she would investigate the matter with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

"Good soldiers are good soldiers, and there should be no reason that their non-Jewishness should hinder their progress in the army," she said, but admitted the question of field security classifications is problematic.

In the past, the question of non-Jews had risen when soldiers had fallen and there was a question over where they could be buried.

Blumenthal said immigrant soldiers should be made aware of the possibility to convert during their service.

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## Former spymaster convicted

DUSSELDORF, Germany (Reuters) - Former East German spymaster Markus Wolf was found guilty in a German court yesterday of three kidnappings during the Cold War and given a two-year suspended sentence.

The trial was the latest attempt to punish the suave man who ran East Germany's foreign intelligence network for over 30 years, after a 1993 treason conviction was overturned in 1995.

Wolf was found guilty of organizing the kidnapping of a Ministry for State Security (Stasi) official who had fled to the West and the abduction of a West Berlin secretary whom the authorities hoped to persuade to spy for the East.

The court said Wolf, 74, was also behind the arrest of an East German whom the Stasi tried to force to sign defamatory statements about former Chancellor Willy Brandt, then mayor of West Berlin.

"I suppose I should be able to live with this," Wolf told a news conference after the judgement was read out, noting that prosecutors had demanded a three-and-a-half year jail term.

Wolf has denied all the charges and said he was being punished by what he called a political trial as a substitute for bringing to book former communist East German leaders.

"This was a political trial," he said. "Every agent in both East and West could be prosecuted for kidnapping." But chief judge Ina Obst-Oellers said the Dusseldorf court had found Wolf guilty of four counts of kidnapping, two of coercion and two of bodily harm.

"I want to firmly set it straight that he was not convicted because he was a Stasi symbol," Obst-Oellers told the court in the two-hour judgement. "He was accused of concrete crimes." Wolf was convicted of treason at the same court in 1993. But Germany



## Russia no longer aims missiles at alliance

By JONATHAN CLAYTON

PARIS (Reuters) - NATO and Russia signed an historic treaty on a new security partnership yesterday, consigning the Cold War to history and offering the prospect of a united Europe after more than half a century of bitter division.

NATO leaders gathered in Paris to hail the "Founding Act on Mutual Cooperation" as inaugurating a new era of cooperation that would allow the alliance to expand eastwards without creating



1 (left) and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana look for President Bill Clinton's cane after it fell 1-Russian summit yesterday in Paris. (AP)

ed by Clinton and summit host French President Jacques Chirac. "This is an historic agreement and our mutual achievement," Yeltsin said, but could not resist a swipe at NATO plans to grant membership to former Communist states in central and eastern Europe. "Russia has a negative view of NATO's expansion plans," he said, but avoided his usual fiery outburst on the subject.

Chirac said the accord swept away the legacy of Yalta and removed the "last remnants of the Cold War."

"The Paris accord does not shift the divisions created in Yalta. It does away with them once and for all," Chirac said in the opening address to the signing ceremony.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the deal was of "far-reaching significance... (coming) at the end of a century which has seen so much blood, tears and suffering."

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana, who negotiated the so-called Founding Act in six tough sessions with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, hailed Yeltsin's vision.

He and NATO leaders say the deal clears the way for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to invite new members to join the alliance at a special summit in Madrid in July.

Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, considered the most likely candidates to join the alliance in the first wave of enlargement, are expected to win the necessary backing of all current NATO member states.

Yeltsin has won assurances that the allies have no plans to place nuclear weapons or foreign troops on the soil of the new members, but crucially failed to gain any say in future NATO decisions.

The Russia-NATO Council will have a permanent secretariat and Russia will be represented by a permanent ambassador. Twice a year, its foreign and defense ministers will meet.

Moscow is most concerned by the desire of some former Soviet republics, primarily the Baltic states Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, to join the alliance, and is angered by NATO's refusal to rule out future membership for them.

NATO diplomats and officials insisted no decision on which countries gain membership next July had yet been taken.

## US-C fishing

VANCOUVER (AP) - The US seized a third US fishing boat a policy adopted following the treaty talks.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Axworthy played down the seizure soon as an "assessment and complete, they will be released," later released pending court approval.

Teschendorf of the US Coast Guard said one boat was seized late Sunday. The vessels allegedly failed to obey regulations requiring that they report their presence to Canadian authorities and haul in their fishing gear when entering Canadian waters.

Those regulations have been in effect since last year, but had not been enforced until talks on how to divide the Pacific salmon catch between the two countries broke down last week.

The talks are expected to resume Friday.

Bud Graham of Canada's Fisheries Department

dent of the Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Association, who was involved in earlier talks, agreed that US boats should comply with Canadian notification rules, but called Canada's actions "simply harassment."

In British Columbia, meanwhile, some Canadian fishermen cheered the detentions. "I think it will be helpful. I think there should be more of it," John Sutcliffe, a spokesman for the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, said.

tors completed a 10-month probe of Aleksandras Lileikis, an 89-year-old former US citizen accused in the deaths of thousands of Jews.

In his letter, Brazauskas vowed "justice in regard to Lileikis will triumph."

However, Lithuanian prosecutors have not yet decided whether to press charges against Lileikis.

## Mandela: Don't demonize Kabila

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South African President Nelson Mandela yesterday accused Western governments of demonizing self-proclaimed president Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo and said the former rebel leader had his full trust.

Mandela, who played a key role in negotiations between Kabila and ousted Zairean president Mobutu Sese Seko, said the renamed country's new leader had demonstrated a commitment to democracy.

"It does appear to me that he (Kabila) has been so demonized by Western governments that even his achievements have not been noticed," Mandela said.

"What he has done in the areas that he has conquered shows very clearly his commitment to democracy."

Kabila has been widely recognized as leader of the Democratic Republic of Congo, but Western media and governments have urged him to demonstrate a commitment to human rights.

Some aid agencies working in the country, the third-biggest in Africa, have accused his followers of atrocities against refugees mainly in the southeast.

Mandela defended Kabila's suspension of political activity in Kinshasa, but the South African leader said he was confident the ban was temporary. "You must judge what president Kabila is doing against the specific conditions existing in that country."

"There is a great deal of disorganization in that country."

It would be suicidal for him to allow the operation of parties before he has a firm grip on the government of the country. I think therefore that we can trust him, on the basis of his record, to keep his word," Mandela said.

Mandela said he had spoken to leaders throughout central Africa and in Europe to ensure a united approach to peacemaking in the former Zaire.

"I briefed them and was able to get support for the initiative South Africa had taken in the Congo. Therefore, I have no doubt that the support of the leaders that surround the Democratic Republic of the Congo will eventually bring about stability in that country."

Mandela said he was willing to accept Kabila's judgment in excluding former popular prime minister Etienne Tshisekedi from his transitional administration.

## Turkish army expels 161 Islamists, extremists

ANKARA (AP) - Following the demands of Turkish generals determined to keep the country secular, Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan signed a decree for the expulsion of 161 pro-Islamic officers and 17 others considered extremists, new papers reported yesterday.

The decision was taken Monday when the generals summoned Erbakan for an emergency meeting. Monday's military statement said some officers were purged from the army without giving their number. The daily Sabah said that among those expelled were 10 officers with leftwing or pro-

Kurdish sympathies. Erbakan has been reluctant to carry out the military's will for fear of alienating his pro-Islamic constituency.

The military is at odds with the Islamic government for its attempts to put a greater Muslim stamp on Turkey.

Among Erbakan's Islamization moves have been the rearrangement of work hours to fit fasting times during the Muslim month of Ramadan, a proposal to allow female civil servants to wear Islamic head covers and plans to build a mosque in Istanbul's main square.

## 3 dead at Ohio truckstop

LODI, Ohio (AP) - A man, his wife and another man in a truck stop parking lot before killing himself Monday night about 40 miles southeast of Cleveland.

The gunman was identified as Thomas Wilson and the dead woman was his wife, Iona. The other man was not identified.

A witness, trucker Don Gibson, said a pickup truck came speeding into the parking lot and a man jumped out. "I heard a boom, and I saw this girl hit the ground," Gibson said.

Gibson ran to the woman and, as he bent down to help her, he saw the man from the pickup truck jump into a semi-trailer trailer and shoot the man inside. The man then jumped out and waved his handgun.

"He said to me, 'You want to see something,'" Gibson said. The man then put the gun to his temple and pulled the trigger.

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## Overprotective standards

The agenda between Israel and the United States is so dominated by the peace process that more mundane matters like trade disputes get lost in the shuffle. Trade tensions should not be ignored, especially given the paramount importance Washington accords to trade in the post-Cold War era. Some of these disputes may be the result of a hyperactive bureaucracy that must always find something to complain about, but others should be matters of concern, not just for international consideration but for the Israeli consumer.

In a recent speech before the US-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Ambassador Martin Indyk - soon to be promoted to Assistant Secretary of State for the region - pressed Israel regarding a number of "barriers" to American products. One might wonder how barriers could exist, given the US-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

On closer examination, Israel is generally not engaged in the kind of blatant protectionism that existed here in the past, and still exists in much of the world, including the United States. The US, for example, still limits sugar imports by quota, a more overt barrier to trade than a tariff. Let alone the sneakier protectionist technique, the "non-tariff trade barrier." In the old days, Israel, like most countries, had plenty of imaginative non-tariff barriers. Israel, for example, banned the import of tea bags that were stapled, ostensibly for safety reasons, but really because Israeli tea bags were glued. Much of this protectionism in the guise of consumer protection has been eliminated, but some borderline cases remain.

One recent example is the complaint of the American chain Toys 'R Us to industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky that Israeli standards on children's products were unnecessarily prohibitive. The Israel Standards Institute responds that it sometimes must choose between European and US standards, so as not to overburden the testing authorities, or because of the public interest in not having incompatible standards.

Though the Standards Institute's argument is not without merit, it is the consumers' interests which must come first. Once assured of basic things such as health and safety, the consumer wants to have maximum choice and quality for the best price. In an ideal world, there would not be separate US and European standards, especially when most of the difference usually is, that US standards are in inches while Europe and Israel use centimeters.

But just because the US is wrong to doggedly stick with its non-metric system does not mean it is right to deprive Israeli consumers of US

products which are highly competitive in quality and price. In fact, at the top of Indyk's list of grievances was that Israel's new, liberalized metric packaging regulations are repeatedly promised but have not been delivered.

Currently, Israel requires that consumer goods not only be labeled with metric sizes and weights, but that items be packaged in specific metric sizes - such as 500 grams, not 454 grams (which equals one pound). The argument here is that the Israeli consumer would be confused by packages of different sizes, and must be protected against the stresses that such anarchy would add to daily life. One is willing to wager, however, that the consumer desire for greater choice outweighs the desire to be "protected" from the tyranny of odd sizing.

Moreover, if part of the new effort to accommodate odd sizes would be to require unit pricing on all products, it might be a change that was worth waiting for. Though such a requirement would no doubt be costly to implement initially, in the long run it would not impose additional costs, and it would help consumers compare prices, which in turn could lower them by increasing price competition.

There are other cases where changes intended to appease trading partners happen to be in the interest of the Israeli consumer. The US, for example, is also pushing the Finance Ministry to change the categorization of cars for government-required insurance purposes, which is currently based on engine size. The Americans argue that this standard discriminates against American cars, which tend to have bigger engines.

The regulation in question is hardly protectionist in the conventional sense, given the lack of an Israeli car industry. But from an Israeli consumer perspective, it is hard to understand why someone with a large-engine car should pay more to insure against personal injury in an accident (the required portion of insurance). If anything, larger engine cars tend to afford greater passenger protection, and therefore would seem to warrant a discount on personal injury insurance.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Dan Meridor, and Sharansky are probably the economic team most sympathetic to liberalizing trade and to consumer interests that Israel has ever had. Sometimes, Israel's trading partners, though acting in their own self-interest, also end up fighting for change that benefits the Israeli consumer. Israel's economic team should stand up to unwarranted outside pressure, while keeping an eye out for opportunities to improve our trade relations and help the consumer at the same time.

## Chirac repudiated

While decreeing "off with his head" for his unfortunate Prime Minister Alain Juppe, President Jacques Chirac cannot escape the glaring truth that it is he who has been repudiated by the electorate. His snap election has snapped his own government's back.

Chirac's presidential seat may be sound, but his decision to appeal directly to the nation last night showed he understood how his authority has been gravely undermined. The appeal was a last-ditch effort to save further humiliation at the hands of the disgruntled electorate in next Sunday's second round parliamentary poll. There is an air of panic and crisis in the French center-right reminiscent of that in the British Conservative Party a few weeks ago. Chirac had little choice other than going on television to beg for votes and warn voters of the dangers of the Socialist-Communist alliance and a return to a government of "cohabitation." Whatever the outcome of the next round, no one is going to be satisfied. Juppe's party and allies may be in the same disarray as John Major's, but there is no New Labor waiting to grasp the voters' plea for radical change. The choice is between an incompetent right and an unformed left. The outcome can only be a frustrated France.

On the fringe, France's European Union partners watch with growing dismay.

In his going, Juppe has become a mere symbol of unpalatable realities. Mired in a growing pool

of jobless, France desperately needs to retool the entire economic structure or lose out in a fiercely competitive world. The gnawing social welfare problems have been worsened by Juppe's tinkering with fiscal policy to meet the EU's targets for monetary union - and the prime minister's haughty manner infuriated rather than informed the public. If the French are looking for the economic vision of a Bill Clinton or a Tony Blair - they won't find it in the old-fashioned socialist Lionel Jospin and his support team of Communist dinosaurs. Someone forgot to tell French intellectuals and politicians the left-right wars are over - the world is now committed to the "whatever works" ideology.

If he becomes prime minister, Jospin can be expected to try burrowing out of the social austerity which brought down Juppe, only to find himself blocked by the looming rock of the EU common currency. France faces a period of great uncertainty and possible instability. If the left wins, cohabitation will put the Chirac presidency in bed with a left bloc which has a different economic lifestyle choice on welfare, privatization, and the EU. If the right slithers home with a thin majority, government economic policies will become unworkable. This election in fact may mark the start of a social and economic avalanche in France. It may be too late for the votes of the individual snowflakes to count.



## Good and bad

DOV BURT LEVY

Can we let a bus company determine driving standards in this country? For eight years I have been writing articles castigating Egged, usually after a horrendous bus crash has killed innocent people. I have pleaded for buses to become the epitome of good driving, rather than the opposite.

I have cited studies showing that too many bus drivers speed, go round corners like bank robbers on the run, smash other cars, roll over, go down cliffs, and kill men, women and children.

I have pleaded that Egged set a good example to the million school children who ride it every day. I have asked that the black box speedometers be checked regularly, and not just after an accident. I asked the Transportation Ministry to make special enforcement efforts against speeding buses.

The last transport minister told me that "the average speed of buses is 14 km/h." A top administrative official added: "It is unfair to ask more of bus drivers than car drivers."

One savvy Tel Aviv political operative told me that Egged had the best law and PR firms in the country on retainer, and had the major political parties and the Transport Ministry in its pocket.

Even my knowledgeable and public-spirited daughter, whose master's degree thesis at Hebrew University dealt with traffic safety, advised, "Dad, forget Egged."

And I almost did, until the year-end report of Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem crossed my desk.

HAVE a good cry. Read the story of four-year-old Mor Chason.

Mor became a paraplegic after a crash with a speeding Egged bus on the Jerusalem-Jericho highway in October, 1995. Her mother, 27-year-old Tali Chason, died in the crash.

In one year, under Alyn's skilled and tender care, this little girl has moved from a respirator to breathing on her own, from being totally wheelchair-bound to using a machine that helps her

**For eight years, I've been pleading with Egged to clean up its act. Now here's an idea**

walk independently. But she has a hard future ahead.

Egged is difficult to fight for more reasons than its strength and power.

It has been a national asset. Through war and peace, when private cars were in short supply, it ferried citizens, workers and soldiers all over the country.

Today, buses are the target of terrorist bullets and bombs. Egged - and I understand it - wants you to tell it how well its people are doing, not what they are doing wrong.

Like the bus driver I had last week. He treated me with high courtesy, patiently waited for me to find the money to buy a pass, even stopped for two people running to catch the bus, and waited till everyone was seated before driving off.

I was smiling - until he came to the exit from Jerusalem.

First he ran a yellow-red light. Then he sped down the left passing lane to just before the turnoff to Mevaseret.

I panicked, thinking I had taken the wrong bus. But at the last moment he swung from left to right to exit, getting me home safely, but shaken.

That's the dilemma: good and bad. Yet the bad cannot be overlooked. But I have a plan that's guaranteed to bring Egged to the bargaining table.

An organization like Metana that really cares about what's happening on the roads should announce that volunteers will stand at central bus stations every Friday morning. They would give out postcards bearing the following in Hebrew, English, Russian and Arabic:

"Speeding and reckless driving happens on Egged buses. Should this bus exceed the speed limit or execute other reckless maneuvers, courteously ask the driver to slow down."

"When you finish your ride, write down the date, bus number, time and place of the offense, and the driver's response to your request on the reverse of this card. Mail, postage free, for [name of organization] to follow up. Remember, your life is at stake."

Egged will surely deplore this public reminder of its drivers' sins, and will take steps to reform. If it doesn't, those volunteers can be back, every day, with their postcards.

The writer held a senior post in government administration in the US.

## The sweet, possible dream

MEIR RONNEN

of the Mapainiks, the Labor Party under Ehud Barak will also distance itself from the Socialist International and old catchphrases.

**Oslo could prove a debacle, but it could give Israel its first majority government**

WITH both Greater Israel and Socialism sunk, there will no longer be any need for these two fleets to try and outmaneuver each other. They can easily plot much the same course.

To do so as one party - or even as one electoral group - could result in Israel getting its first majority government, one that would not be at the mercy of smaller parties wielding influence far beyond their weight of numbers.

This could change the face of our troubled society, and, for the first time, enable the cabinet to adopt fiscal policies free of political blackmail.

### POSTSCRIPT

PRESIDENT CLINTON drew his own caricature at the behest of political cartoonist Mike Luckovich, depicting himself as "a typical politician... saying one thing and thinking another."

Clinton came up with a reasonable likeness, complete with bags under his eyes and a thought balloon reading: "How

It could also result in a freer, more secular society, one in which religion would center largely around personal belief rather than political institutions.

If this does not occur, the dangerous rift between secular and haredi will widen further. Ethnic differences will also be perpetuated.

And as there are no grounds for believing that our foreign policy will be free of problems and pressures in the post-Oslo period, a majority government would strengthen Israeli stands on political sticking points.

With Oslo out of the way, the last real policy difference between Labor and Likud will have disappeared. A union of their voters is eventually inevitable.

But we can't leave matters to time and inertia. The challenges facing us and our children are too pressing. The threats to our society are all too palpable, exemplified by constant attacks on the police and the courts.

The politicians will have to get moving. Perhaps Yossi Beilin and Michael Eitan will show them the way.

Just think of it: a majority government - at last!

The writer is a veteran journalist and political cartoonist.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SPEEDING

Sir, - I refer to Elith Richter's well-reasoned letter of May 9 regarding the connection between traffic speed and accident rates on the roads. My profession as a road traffic accident investigator in England for some years leads me to the opposite conclusion. The majority of incidents did not involve high speeds on major roads.

In England, road speeds are higher than in this country, with the speed limit of 70 mph (112 km/h) on motorways and 60 mph (96 km/h) on country roads. I found, however, that the greatest source of injury accidents were from 20 mph (32 km/h) suburban roads.

It is my opinion that most acci-

dents in this country can be attributed to erratic driving, excessive lane changing and acceleration, late braking and overall lack of respect for other road users rather than road speed, which even considering the lower speed limits is much lower than in England, where it is the norm to exceed the speed limit by 30 to 50 percent.

On the point of traffic cameras, these indeed can be effective, but many police forces in England have been unable to maintain the system because of high film costs. The fact that three photographs need to be taken of each offender (approach, number plate and rear)

also means that film needs to be changed very regularly, requiring more manpower which doubtless would be unavailable.

PETER KINGSTON

Netanya.

### SUPREME COURT

Sir, - As a national religious Jew, I support Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's suggestion for a member of the Supreme Rabbinical Court to be a member of the Supreme Court. I would hope that said rabbi would be national religious and after full military service.

YOSEEF LEESECHHOEWER  
Jerusalem.

مكتبة الاصل



## GRAPEVINE

## Distaff diplomacy

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Diplomacy, some would argue, is a female art. But until recently, it has been largely a male profession — at least at the uppermost levels. The fact that this is changing was evident at a Saturday night dinner for new envoys here hosted by Philipines Ambassador Rosalinda de Perio-Santos. Welcoming the guests, she made a special point of singling out not only the newcomers, but also the members of her sorority: Paulina Garcia de Larrea, ambassador of Ecuador, Byranyum Altinova, ambassador of Kazakhstan, and Darja Bavdz Kurek, ambassador of Slovenia.



Eli Ohana: Debuts tonight as sportscaster.

FASHION COMPERE and beauty-contest organizer Ilana Margalit was sorely tempted to wear a national dress, given to her by Nigerian ambassador and dean of the diplomatic corps Ignatius Olesmek, to the Africa Day reception at the Dan Accadia Hotel, Herzliya. But, she thought it might be inappropriate. However, several members of the African community here had no such qualms, and their garb added an exotic and colorful atmosphere to the function hosted by the heads of all the African missions in Israel.

In contrast, Maatzen Land, the tall and sumptuously attractive wife of South African ambassador Frank Land, dressed in a long, slinky black gown with matching toque, looked as if she had walked straight out of a Ziegfeld Follies production.

AT LEAST one of the people attending the Africa Day festivities came a very long way. Jerusalem-based AMCHA director John Lemberger, who had accepted the invitation from his friend Rwandan ambassador Michel Rugema, had been in Eilat in the morning, in Tel Aviv in the afternoon, and in Herzliya for an evening reception, before returning home to Eilat — all this, using public transportation.

TEL AVIVIANs are out to prove that their city can live up to its claim as the city which never sleeps. That's

last year, he had broached the possibility of a New Zealand film festival to TA Cinematheque director Alon Garbus. In only eight months, it has become a reality.

Co-sponsored by Air New Zealand, the film festival is also an enticement to viewers to visit the magnificent beautiful Kiwi islands. The first-night audience included song-writer and radio and television host Emod Manor, businessman N a h u m Felglin and his wife Elora, Bank Discount executive Yossi Marks and his wife Gloria, B a n k Hapalim legal adviser Amiel Gurt, and

Ronnie Reiber, director of the International Trade Relations Department of the Israel Federation of Chambers of Commerce, plus a large representation from the antipodes.

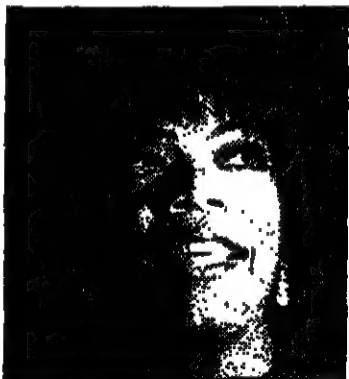
ONE OF Israel's best-looking soccer players, Eli Ohana, is in the eye of the camera in more ways than one. A guest last week on Amnon Levy's Channel 1 talk show, Ohana was told by singer Danny Litani that he uses the shampoo which Ohana endorses in TV commercials, to which a straight-faced Ohana retorted: "Do you have dandruff?" Ohana will tonight celebrate the kick-off of his new career move as a sportscaster on Channel 2.

ONE OF the happiest people in Jerusalem this week is Israel Museum director James Snyder, who is still drooling over the museum's acquisition of Camille Pissarro's Impressionist masterpiece *Boulevard Montmartre, Spring 1897*. Received as a bequest from John and Frances L. Loeb of New York, the painting is the eighth Pissarro in the museum's collection and, as far as Snyder is concerned, it's the best. It goes on view to the public Sunday, June 1.

DIRECTOR Woody Allen is scheduled to start shooting a new film next fall. The cast has not yet been finalized, but Kenneth Branagh and Winona Ryder have reportedly been signed up for lead roles.



Woody Allen: Scheduled to start shooting a new film. (AP)



Oprah: Her popularity continues to soar. (AP)

why so many of them turned up to the Tel Aviv Cinematheque for the opening of the first-ever New Zealand Film Festival in Israel. Invitations were for 9:30 p.m., at which time the auditorium was almost empty. But by 10, when the screening actually began, it was almost full. Ankara-based New Zealand ambassador Ian Kennedy said that on his first visit to Israel,

ized, but Kenneth Branagh and Winona Ryder have reportedly been signed up for lead roles.

POSITIVELY GLOWING these days is Oprah Winfrey, who despite up-and-coming competition, received her fourth consecutive daytime Emmy Award and, according to Nielsen, scored the highest ratings for May in four years.

## Pressed for words

Lying, leaking or informing the public? The role of government spokesmen was the subject of debate at a recent Bar-Ilan University conference, Abraham Rabinovich reports.

Is a government spokesman paid to enlighten citizens, mislead them or keep them dumb but happy? A forum of diplomatic and government officials discussing "Spokesmanship in the service of peace in the Middle East" at Bar-Ilan University this month noted that a spokesman is sometimes most effective when he says nothing at all.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, who was at the 1977 Camp David summit as government secretary, said that a partial media blackout was an essential part of the peacekeeping process. "If the talks at Camp David had leaked, there would have been no agreement." During the Rhodes peace talks following the War of Independence, he noted, many decisions were taken secretly in Jordan in talks between King Abdullah and Israeli representatives and only then transferred to the official talks at Rhodes.

However, David Makovsky, diplomatic correspondent for *Ha'aretz*, contended that the Israeli establishment exaggerated its secretiveness. "There is more to democracy than the ability to call a minister an idiot," he said. "It also means involving the public in issues that should be on the public agenda. That is missing in this country."

The development of the Lavi warplane, which involved enormous sums before the project's abortion, was kept off the public agenda, he noted, along with numerous other issues that should have been aired. "There is an attitude of contempt that says this is not public business."

Dan Pattir, who served as spokesman for both Labor and Likud governments, cited Henry Kissinger as a master in manipulation of the media in order to further political goals. At the start of his shuttle diplomacy, Pattir recounted, the American secretary of state told a plenipotentiary of American correspondents flying with him from Egypt to Israel that the Egyptian leadership had agreed to virtually all elements in his peace proposal. The intended effect was to put pressure on the Israeli government. Pattir said the government did not buy it, correctly presuming that the Egyptians would not at that early stage have significantly shifted their position.

By contrast, Syrian President Hafez Assad was unable to use a ready-made media opportunity to further his own national interest when it was presented to him by Makovsky, then a *Jerusalem Post* reporter accompanying secretary of state Warren Christopher on a shuttle trip to Damascus. At a press conference, Makovsky asked Assad how he could reassure the Israeli public that an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights would lead to true peace rather than constitute a starting point for the next war.

"He said: 'What's the problem? [Prime minister Yitzhak] Rabin says I'm serious.' I hadn't asked him about Rabin. I was talking about public opinion. By not speaking to the Israeli public, Assad was making it more difficult for Rabin to make concessions. Public opinion is part of the game."

Shimon Schiffer, the *Yedioth Aharonot* reporter who first broke the story about Israel's negotiations with the PLO in Oslo, said that the Israeli negotiators did not hesitate

to leak a news story in order to push the Palestinians. The story asserted that a breakthrough in peace talks with Syria was imminent, said Schiffer. The story duly appeared on the front page of a local paper with a large headline. A copy of the issue was then left on the negotiating table at Oslo for the Palestinians to see. The implication of the story was that if the Palestinians proved obstinate, the Israeli peacekeepers could take their business elsewhere. The Palestinians indeed proved more flexible.

Schiffer said that in his long career as a diplomatic correspondent, officials had attempted to feed him a steady diet of lies and half-truths. In a wistful aside, he said that he wished to raise two questions: "Is it permissible for a spokesman to lie to a journalist? I am not a private person and if he lies to me, he is lying to my readership. My second question is, is it permissible for politicians to manipulate journalists?"

The veteran newsmen did not seem to expect anyone to leak him the answers.



(Dan Rubinger)

**A media blackout is sometimes an essential part of the peacemaking process.**

—Elyakim Rubinstein



(David Rubinger)

**Kissinger was a master at manipulating the media to further political goals.**

—Dan Pattir

## PARENTING

## Breathe in, breathe out... and understand your child

By RUTH MASON

"Breathing in, I am calm. Breathing out," I smile. "Next time you are angry or jealous of your brother or sister, or when you are unhappy with a friend, stop and do this exercise."

This advice was addressed to a group of children last week in Jerusalem by Sister Chan Khong, student of the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh, internationally renowned Zen master, peace activist and Nobel Prize nominee. Hanh teaches that the art of mindfulness can be applied to the problems of sibling rivalry.

Mindfulness, as described by Hanh, is the act of being fully present in the moment. "Life," says Hanh, "is available only in the present moment." When we play with our children, many of us are actually thinking about those dishes or that phone call or about how our feelings got hurt by something our sister said.

When we are mindful, we put our full attention on whatever is going on in front of us right now. Using the example of drinking a cup of tea, Hanh said: "If I am caught in my worries and anger, the tea is like a ghost; it isn't really there." The same applies to our children when we are with them but not really there.

The vehicle for staying in, or coming back to the moment, is the breath. "Breathing in, I know I am breathing in. Breathing out, I know I am breathing out," says Hanh.

In his community of Plum Village in France, the intermittent ring of a bell reminds people to stop what they are doing (or thinking or saying) and return to the breath.

In our lives, says Hanh, we can use the telephone for that purpose. Every time we hear it ring, stop and breathe deeply three times while focusing on the breath.

Sister Chan Khong taught us a song which you might want to try out with your children.

You can put your palms together and open them to make the flower, use a finger tip to show a drop of dew falling on your palm, bring your fingertips together to form a mountain, move your palm face down to show the earth. Just make up any calm tune. Breathing in, breathing out, breathing in, breathing out. I am blooming as the flower, I am freshened as the dew. I am solid as the mountain, I am firm as the earth, I am free.

Hanh also spoke about the hurts we unwillingly inflict on our children. Say you are tense or in a bad mood and your five-year-old comes up to you to express some bad feeling he has, but he doesn't yet have the right words, and he annoys you. You get angry and say something sharp to him and this may deeply wound him, Hanh said. He spoke of the Buddhist principle of *samsara*, or negativity, that is passed down through the generations. To stop this process, he suggested two exercises.

"Breathing in, I see myself as a five-year-old. Breathing out, I smile with compassion at that boy." He also suggested finding a picture of your mother or father at the age of five and doing the same exercise. "Breathing in, I see my father as a five-year-old. Breathing out, I smile with compassion at that boy." This practice, he said, helps us look deeply in order to understand. With understanding comes acceptance and compassion.

"Acceptance and compassion can liberate you from your hate and your anger," he said.

"We live in an age in which telecommunication is very sophisticated, but communication between parents and children is suffering. We have lost the capacity to listen to each other, to talk to each other in their language of understanding."

"The practice of mindfulness can help us go back to ourselves, to calm ourselves, to look deeply in order to transform."

—Ruth Mason

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**Visions of pygmy hippos**  
By Sam Orbaum

Wait till the world hears about this: another patch of Jerusalem land has been expropriated for purposes of development. That's right, Yasser, crank up the hysteria: the Judaization of al-Quds is continuing.

Or more correctly, the zooification.

How's that as an attention-grabber for a story about the expansion of the Jerusalem zoo? As far as I can tell, no sacred territory bequeathed to his people by that first Palestinian, Adam, is included here, though there is a definite Garden-of-Eden feel to it.

The zoo is currently on a 260-dunam tract that cascades down a

envisions:  
• a natural history museum  
• a butterfly house  
• an aquarium, plus seals, otters, penguins  
• a nocturnal pavilion  
• a safari-style park with indigenous biblical animals  
• a biotope ecosystem exhibition, of the sort that has proven enormously popular abroad  
• the addition of numerous endangered species such as pygmy hippos, tigers, gorillas, orangutans and various small carnivores.

Not to mention the zoo's newly opened Bible Lands Preserve, a South American mixed exhibit under construction, a planned

**The capital's grass menagerie opened on this site only four years ago, in which time it has become an island of ethnic calm.**

slope of Givat Masua into the meandering Malha wadi, one hill west of the Jerusalem Mall. The plan is for the Tisch Family Zoological Gardens to burst its boundaries further westward toward Kiryat Menahem, as well as south — across the railway tracks and up the slope toward Gilo, incorporating an archeological park named Ein Yael. (On the other side of Gilo is Har Homa, but the zoo isn't going to get *that*.) The city's grass menagerie opened on this site only four years ago, in which time it has become an island of ethnic calm, the only place where we can feel good in public together.

"We're going to double our area. The land is already allocated," zoological assistant Beverly Burge disclosed. At present, 208 of the 260 dunams are developed.

The staff, led by dynamic young director Shai Doron, recently hosted an international conference of zoologists, who were mighty impressed by what we've got going here — and by what's projected.

Such as? Nothing's locked in yet, but according to an internal report titled "Zoo 2010," the Board of Directors

Noah's Ark learning center, a projected insectarium — just about everything but T-Rex.

The zoo is an integral part of the burgeoning development of Jerusalem's south-southwest region. While political considerations lured development to strategic hilltops on Jerusalem's perimeters, this snug pocket of lowland lay fallow until an explosion of construction began five years ago. The area also boasts the Jerusalem Mall, Teddy Stadium, a technological industry park, plus new neighborhoods such as Givat Masua and Malha (Manahat). And there's a lot more to come, much of which will affect the zoo's future.

A light railway is planned to pass through here; Highway 39, a major new entry artery into the city, will be close by, as well as the western ring-road; a hotel is to be built on the edge of the zoo, and facing it, a mass entertainment facility, which is in the process of receiving planning permission.

As you can imagine, local residents are pretty excited. "Roar," said one. "Sssssss," added a neighbor, and according to one old-timer, "Wooooo-eeee!"

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## BUSINESS

in brief

### Metal sector expects 1,500-2,000 job cuts

The metal and electricity sector will cut 1,500-2,000 workers as a result of a slowdown in these areas, Manufacturers Association metal and electricity division head Shraga Brosh said earlier this week. The estimated cutbacks reflect a freeze in sales during the January-April period, he said. Brosh claimed the sector is suffering from the Bank of Israel's interest-rate policy and the current dollar-shekel exchange rate. *Jennifer Friedman*

### Cabinet to consider new candidate for ILA

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon will recommend to the cabinet this Friday that it approve the appointment of Bertie Brudo as director of the Israel Lands Administration, a senior ministerial source confirmed this week. Brudo is currently projects director for Bank Discount. *David Harris*

### Baskin Robbins comes to Israel

Allied Domecq Retailing International (West) is looking to open its first Baskin-Robbins franchise during the next 12 months, president Peter Harwood told *The Jerusalem Post* recently. Meanwhile, the company will expand the number of subsidiary Dunkin' Donuts' local branches to 30, he said. The company has been very pleased with its entry into the local market after opening its first store in Tel Aviv in 1995. *David Harris*

### Sharansky on US tour

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is in the US for a one-week trip. During his four-city tour, he is scheduled to meet New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, delegates from the New York-Israel Chamber of Commerce, businessmen in Raleigh, North Carolina, representatives of Coca Cola in Atlanta, and Houston's Trade Office director-general. The visit will also include a chess match against Deep Blue, the computer that beat world chess champion Gary Kasparov. *Jennifer Friedman*

### Singaporean delegation here

A delegation of Singaporean industrialists and government officials arrived here this week for the first Israel-based meeting of the Binational Singapore-Israel Industrial Research and Development Fund. Leading the delegation is Gong Leek, director of the National Science and Technology Board, Singapore's equivalent of Israel's chief scientist. The visit honors the founding of the Vertex Fund III, a joint fund designed to promote cooperation in the high-tech sector between the two countries. Each country will contribute to the fund \$1 million per year for the next three years. *Jennifer Friedman*

## Ofer-Wertheim to up its UMB holding to 51%

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

The Ofer-Wertheim group told the government it would exercise its option to take an additional 25-percent stake in United Mizrahi Bank (UMB), MI Holdings announced yesterday. In 1995, the group bought a 26% stake in UMB - Israel's fourth largest bank and the first to have been privatized. UMB's controlling shareholders told the Treasury and MI Holdings, the company administering the government's sale of its banking holdings, that they intend exercising the option they have to

purchase a further 25% of the bank, a MI Holdings spokeswoman told Reuters. The value of the stake is estimated at some NIS 440 million. UMB is the only major Israeli bank which is not publicly traded.

The government hopes to float at least 20% of the bank on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in the second or third quarter of 1997. The announcement marks the latest development in the government's broad plans for privatizing the banking sector, which was almost completely nationalized in the aftermath of the 1983 share-manipulation scandal.

The government hopes to raise a total of NIS 4 billion through various privatization schemes. Most of that income is planned to be generated from sales of banking holdings.

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# Treasury gives local authorities OK for property tax hikes

By DAVID HARRIS

Local authorities will be allowed to raise municipal property taxes (*armona*) as part of a package of reforms unveiled yesterday by Budget Director David Milgrom.

The new regulations will not give the municipalities a free hand to indiscriminately levy local taxes, Milgrom said.

The proposals also allow the government to temporarily wrestle power from local authorities that build up unacceptably large deficits.

The crisis in health-care funding was also addressed by Milgrom, who said a solution could be close at hand.

The proposals on local authority funding, in part, comprise the recommendations of the Efrat committee, established to report on the current financial crisis in the local authorities.

Later in the day, Finance Minister Dan Meridor presented the proposals to the Union of Local Authorities (ULA) leaders as they continued their strike, now in its third week.

Milgrom called on municipalities to be responsible for their own finances and not expect the government to bail them out of their overall NIS 4 billion deficit. He said the ULA was already aware of this plan and had given

its blessing to the proposals, adding the only outstanding issue was the exact sum to be handed over by the Treasury to the councils for help in the current crisis.

However, last night, ULA chairman Adi Eldar rejected the idea of raising local taxes above the rate of inflation.

"The proposal is useless," he said. "The problem we are addressing is central government funding for state services such as education and welfare. The council heads will thus refuse to raise municipal property tax rates."

The Treasury package was formed following talks this week among Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Meridor and Interior Minister Eli Shuss. Its main contents include:

- Local authorities must remain within spending targets and will be required to present balanced budgets.

- The local authorities must show residents they have done their utmost to keep within spending limits. Only then can they ask for an increase in taxation, which must be used to improve services and not to wipe out deficits.

- Central government will play its part in the transfer of funds as long as the municipalities meet their legal requirements.

- There will be no situation where the greater

the deficit in a council, the more central government funding it will receive.

- Legislation will be introduced to replace a local authority with a government-appointed committee if it does not remain within what Meridor and Milgrom called "the rules of the game." This committee would be in place for a limited period until the problem is resolved.

- Any increase in municipal property tax levied on householders must be spent on residents and not used to fund local industry.

These measures will be brought to the cabinet in the next few weeks alongside the proposal to legislate against local authorities and others in the public sector guilty of pay excesses to staff. That measure has the approval of Meridor and Netanyahu, but failed to pass the cabinet stage when it was discussed by ministers in April.

"The councils are currently taking the easier option of coming to the government for more money, rather than making themselves more efficient," said Milgrom.

If the status quo is allowed to continue, the collective deficits of the local authorities, together with those of the health service, will amount to several billion shekels, Milgrom said. This will cause a severe macroeconomic

crisis, which will have to fall on the shoulders of the taxpayer.

Some NIS 1.5b. could be saved through efficiency measures in the health service, said Milgrom, quoting a health fund head. The main problem is duplicity of a wide range of services - from the rural health clinics to major hospitals, said Milgrom.

The Treasury is in protracted negotiations with the Health Ministry over the future of the nation's health care.

The Treasury is pushing for greater financial independence for the health funds, but many in the health care see this as an attempt by the Treasury to reduce its financial commitments.

The Health Ministry is currently demanding NIS 1.25b. from the Treasury to cover the gap between the cost of the basket of health services and the money raised from taxation for health care.

The Treasury is also recommending the opening of the medicines market to greater competition, which should result in greater choice and lower prices for customers.

Health funding now comprises some nine percent of gross domestic product, making Israel the world's ninth largest spender on health care.

## Swiss retailer denies aborting Israel plans due to political risk

By JENNIFER FRIEDMAN

Manor AG, a privately-held Swiss retailing giant, yesterday denied reports it had canceled plans to invest in Israel due to the political situation, saying it never had such designs in the first place.

Responding to a report in *Ha'aretz*, director-general Ronan Benedict said he was "very surprised to hear about this," adding that "in the nearly 50 years of Israel's history we have never discussed [conducting] any business in Israel."

Benedict also denied *Ha'aretz*'s claims that Manor intends to invest in any country in the Middle East.

He said that his company purchases some textile products from Israel, but besides buying goods from other countries, Manor's activities are concentrated in Switzerland.

"Manor is a Swiss company with just a little pharmaceutical chain in France," he said.

*Ha'aretz* ran a story yesterday stating that the Basel-based enterprise outlined a strategic plan last year to enter the Israeli market by buying a pre-existing retail chain and investing some \$150 million to \$200m. in local activities.

The report said that three weeks ago Eitan Liraz, a lawyer representing Manor in Israel, received a letter from the company's president Phillip Nordmann that read: "Despite the positive economic conditions that economic studies conducted by the company showed, Manor decided to cancel its plans to invest in Israel following the political and security situation."

Neither Nordmann nor Liraz could be reached for comment.

The owners of the concern, the Maus and Nordmann families, are both Jewish, and Benedict has a brother living in Jerusalem.

But besides these connections and the purchasing of Israeli-made goods, Benedict said Manor has never expressed an interest in investing here.



Croatia, Serbia hold economic talks

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman (left) shakes hands with Serbian Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic at the beginning of their meeting in Zagreb yesterday to discuss economic and border-crossing problems between the two countries. (AP)

## Koor first-quarter net slightly down

By JENNIFER FRIEDMAN

Koor Industries Ltd. yesterday reported a 3.8 percent decrease in its first quarter net income to NIS 205 million from NIS 213m. in the same period last year. Revenues fell 3% to NIS 3.09 billion from NIS 3.19b.

The results, which exceeded expectations, were affected by a drop in revenue in the holding

company's telecommunications equipment and building materials holdings.

The primary cause of the decrease in sales was due to lost revenue in sales to Bezeq by Tadiran Telecommunications Ltd. and Telrad, CEO Benjamin Gaon said.

Tadiran Telecommunications is currently shifting away from local sales to concentrate on exports. In addition, both Tadiran Ltd. and Telrad recently signed agreements to sell Bezeq equipment at lower prices than previous contracts stipulated.

Last week Tadiran Ltd. reported a 17% drop in first quarter net income.

Koor's sales in building materials fell 9.6% to NIS 407m.

Koor Industries is the country's largest and most profitable holding company.

## Erwin Eisenberg: No compromise on will

By YOAV YITZHAK

Israel Corporation president Erwin Eisenberg is opposed to any arbitration or compromise settlement for the division of his father Shaul Eisenberg's estate, other than that stipulated in the 1986 will, lawyer Ya'acov Ne'eman said.

Ne'eman told Erwin's mother and sisters, who are challenging him over their shares in the will, that his client objects in principle to any compromise move unless executed by Ne'eman himself.

Contacts took place among the parties after being summoned for a hearing on the application filed by Erwin's mother, Leah Eisenberg, with the Tel Aviv District Court for the appointment of a special executor for her late husband's estate.

Contacts were aimed at finding a way of minimizing the damage caused to the Eisenberg group's

business as a result of the bitter wrangling among family members.

The original will, from 1986 and signed by Shaul Eisenberg, has not been found, making it difficult for Erwin to convince the court that the copy of the will he presented after the shiva is true to the original.

A copy of that will was obtained by *Globes*.

According to the photocopy of the will presented by Erwin, Shaul Eisenberg bequeathed him 80% of his estate, as well as 5% each to four of his five daughters (the fifth, Esther Zochovitzky, being disinherited).

The will stipulated, however, that the rights of his sons-in-law would expire should they resign from the group within less than two years of his death.

Eisenberg also bequeathed four of his five daughters all the rights in his Ness account in Bank Leumi, Zurich. The will does not clearly specify what rights or monies are held in that account. *Globes*

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German mark	1.9335	2.0155	1.84	1.9669
Pound sterling	5.5849	5.5937	5.41	5.5833
French franc	0.5977	0.6072	0.57	0.5812
Japanese yen (100)	2.8952	2.9419	2.84	2.9186
Swiss franc	1.7533	1.7918	1.73	1.7755
Dutch florin	2.3836	2.4223	2.34	2.3935
Swedish krona	0.4412	0.4538	0.43	0.4440
Norwegian krona	0.4781	0.4838	0.46	0.4703
Danish krone	0.5208	0.5293	0.51	0.5173
Finland mark	0.5932	0.6089	0.58	0.5928
Canadian dollar	2.5223	2.4968	2.40	2.4672
Australian dollar	0.7521	0.7643	0.73	0.7507
S. African rand	0.9800	0.9701	0.94	0.9573
Belgian franc (10)	2.8187	2.8942	2.77	2.8374
Austrian schilling (10)	2.0108	2.0434	1.97	2.0261
Italian lire (1000)	4.7473	4.8258	4.68	4.8043
Jordanian dinar	3.8838	3.9262	—	1.0437
Egyptian pound	5.1025	5.1850	5.01	5.0812
Irish punt	2.3484	2.3863	2.30	2.3687
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*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.				
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## SPORTS

in brief

## Gatting quits as Middlesex captain

LONDON (Reuters) - Mike Gatting resigned as Middlesex captain yesterday after 14 years in charge of the county club. Gatting, 39, currently an England selector, played 79 Tests for his country. He led the last England side to win the Ashes when he captained the 1986-87 team in Australia. Mark Ramprakash will take over as skipper in tomorrow's county championship match against Northants at Lord's.

## Tony Adams pulls out of Poland match

LONDON (Reuters) - England defender Tony Adams has pulled out of the World Cup qualifier against Poland in Katowice on Saturday because of a persistent ankle injury. The England vice-captain has been undergoing intensive treatment on his ankle for the past three weeks.

## Barcelona: Ronaldo is staying with us

MADRID (Reuters) - Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez said yesterday Brazilian striker Ronaldo would stay with the Spanish club, a local news agency reported. Ronaldo, who has been linked to a number of Italian and Spanish clubs, will play with the team until the 2005-2006 season, the agency EFE said.

## Everton fans vote to leave Goodison Park

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Everton fans have voted overwhelmingly in favor of moving to a new 60,000 capacity all-seater stadium. More than 80 percent of the 21,974 fans who replied to a poll said they were in favor of chairman Peter Johnson's plans for a new stadium. The premier league club have been playing at Goodison Park, which has a capacity of 40,000, since 1892.

## Beckenbauer attacks English World Cup bid

MUNICH (Reuters) - Franz Beckenbauer launched a fierce attack on English soccer officials yesterday for running a rival bid against Germany to host the 2006 World Cup finals. "The English have left us in the lurch. We expected the English to support us. This has got nothing to do with English fair play," Beckenbauer said to applause at a gala to back Germany's bid. The Germans launched their cup campaign in 1993 under the impression that the English FA would support them as Europe's leading candidate. But the English body decided to run a rival bid after last year's successful staging of the European championship finals.

## Mourning keeps promise, Heat stay alive by beating Bulls

MIAMI (Reuters) - Alonzo Mourning kept his promise and the Miami Heat capitalized on a woeful third quarter by Michael Jordan, then held off by their rivals for an 87-80 win over the Chicago Bulls Monday to stay alive in the Eastern Conference finals. Mourning, who had guaranteed that the Heat would win Game 4 after losing the first three games, got 18 points and 14 rebounds as Miami nearly blew a 21-point lead but dealt the Bulls just their second loss of the playoffs. Game 5 is today at Chicago. "I didn't regret predicting a victory," Mourning said. "I knew we were going to have a totally different attitude and play the game a lot more focused and aggressive." Jordan missed his first 14 shots and was 2-of-23 from the field through three quarters before carrying the Bulls in the fourth. He scored 18 straight Chicago points to cut the lead to 79-78 with 2:17 remaining. "Physically, I felt good," Jordan said. "In the first quarter I found myself trying to beat the shot clock, so I really didn't get any good looks. From that point on, I found myself

pressing, just trying to find a rhythm to my game. I was just missing easy shots." He had the ball plenty of times in the first three quarters. Bulls coach Phil Jackson said, "They were just opportunistic; he didn't take advantage of it." Jordan missed a late jumper that could have given the Bulls the lead, and Mourning had two free throws and a dunk off a nice feed by bench man John Crotty in the final 90 seconds to seal the win. Tim Hardaway scored 25 points and Jamal Mashburn added 17 for the Heat, who beat the Bulls for the first time in 10 postseason meetings and improved to 5-0 in elimination games. Jordan scored 29 points but was just 9-of-35 from the field, including 0-of-8 from 3-point range. Jordan was 0-for-11 in the first half and 2-for-12 in the third period but went down shooting. "We held Michael to nine points in three quarters," said Miami coach Pat Riley. "We shot the ball very well and competed. I don't think we can hold Michael down like that but we have to do the rest in Chicago to have a chance."

## 'Weird' defeat for ex-champion Courier

PARIS (AP) - It was a shot Jim Courier normally could make with his eyes closed: A high-bouncing sitter near the net, just begging to be smashed into the open court for an easy winner.

But, on a day when virtually nothing went right for the former two-time French Open champion, Courier incredibly hacked the ball into the net. As the crowd gasped in amazement, he could only laugh and hold up his arms in mock apology.

The point summed up Courier's misery yesterday as he slumped to a 6-1, 6-2, 4-6, 1-6, 6-4 defeat to Sweden's Magnus Larsson. The first-round loss was the American's earliest exit from his favorite tournament and confirmed the steady decline of the world's former No. 1 player.

"I was surprised how pathetic I was out there," said Courier, winner here in 1991 and 1992 and runner-up in 1993.

"Today I felt like an alien out there. It was like I was out of my skin. I haven't felt like that in a long time in a big tournament," Courier, who has slipped to No. 22 in the rankings, wasn't the only big name knocked out by a big-hitting Swede.

Fourth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic, never a clay-court master, lost 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 to Magnus Gustafsson in his latest Grand Slam failure. Ivanisevic converted only two of 18 break points and committed 76 unforced errors.

"When you have so many break points, so many opportunities and you cannot win a game, something is wrong there," he said.

There was nothing wrong with second-seeded Michael Chang, who cruised to a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 win over Rodolphe Gilbert. On the women's side, favorites Martina Hingis and Steffi Graf were back in their element.

The top-seeded Hingis, playing her first match in seven weeks after injuring her knee falling off a horse, needed just 51 minutes to beat Henrieta Nagyova 6-0, 6-2.

The second-seeded Graf, playing in her third event after a three-month



WINNING UGLY - Sweden's Magnus Larsson beat Jim Courier in five topsy-turvy sets in Paris yesterday.

layoff with a knee injury, downed Paola Suarez 6-1, 6-4 in 54 minutes as she opened her bid for her second straight and sixth overall French Open title.

Germany's Anke Huber, No. 8, became the first women's seed eliminated when she was beaten 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 by Kimberly Po of the U.S. Po is ranked 16th and just missed out being seeded last week.

Courier made 35 unforced errors in a wild and erratic match against

Larsson - a French Open semifinalist in 1994 who is now ranked No. 39.

"The way I played was pretty sad actually," Courier said.

"If I was happy after this match, maybe I would look in the mirror and be a little bit worried, actually. 'I've been in some pretty weird matches, but this was as weird as they come,'" Courier said.

As philosophical as ever, Courier said he would fly home to prepare for Wimbledon and put the clay-

court season behind him.

"It's one bad match," he said. "The sun is going to rise again tomorrow for sure. I'll be on a plane following it." In other men's matches, No. 6 Richard Krajicek, No. 7 Marcelo Rios and No. 9 Carlos Moya all advanced. So did three other Spaniards: No. 10 Felix Mantilla, No. 11 Albert Costa and No. 16 Sergi Bruguera.

In a minor upset, No. 14 Tim Henman of Britain was eliminated

6-2, 2-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-4 by France's Olivier Delaite.

An impressive winner was unseeded Mark Philippoussis of Australia, who served 29 aces in a five-set victory over Nicklas Kulti and established himself as a dangerous floater.

In women's play, No. 4 Janu Novotna, No. 6 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and No. 12 Mary Joe Fernandez were among those advancing in straight sets.

## Red Wings beat Avalanche, reach Stanley Cup Finals

DETROIT (Reuters) - The Detroit Red Wings advanced to the Stanley Cup Finals for the second time in three years, dethroning the champion Colorado Avalanche with a 3-1 victory Monday in Game 6 of the Western Conference Finals.

The Red Wings won the best-of-seven series 4-2 and will play the Flyers in the NHL's championship series beginning Saturday at Philadelphia. "Detroit, which had 42 shots on goal to Colorado's 16, thoroughly dominated the Avalanche for the first 55 minutes before Scott Young scored off a rebound to cut the margin to 2-1.

But Brendan Shanahan scored into an empty net with 30 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

Martin Lapointe and Sergei Fedorov had the other goals for the Red Wings, whose 42-year Stanley Cup drought is the longest in the NHL.

## Brumer won't be recalled for Russia

By ORI LEWIS

National team coach Shlomo Scharf has decided against recalling central defender Gadi Brumer back into the Israeli squad ahead of the World Cup qualifier with Russia next month.

After seeing Brumer in the State Cup final on Monday in which the player's Maccabi Tel Aviv side went down to Hapoel Beersheba, Scharf said that he was not convinced Brumer had regained sufficient match fitness to challenge for a place in the squad.

Haim Revivo will be recalled for

the match in Moscow on June 8 and will join the squad when its training camp resumes a few days before the match.

In other news, Hapoel Beersheba's Shai Holtzman has refused to take a lie-detector test in the investigation into his alleged contacts with Maccabi Tel Aviv a few days before the State Cup final. Both the player and the Tel Aviv club deny that a transfer deal was discussed. Indeed, Maccabi chairman Tamir Gilat said last night that Holtzman was not featured in the club's plans for next season.

## Juventus just one step away from triple

MUNICH (Reuters) - Juventus, who have just clinched the Italian title to add to the World Cup and European Supercup wins, could crown their centenary year with the most sought-after club prize of all today - the European Cup.

No Italian team has won a similar grand slam in one season and for Marcello Lippi's team to do that against German Borussia Dortmund would simply confirm what is already beyond any doubt - that Juventus are currently the greatest club side in the world.

Victory would totally vindicate Lippi's decision last year to jettison the heart of the team which had beaten Ajax on penalties to become European champions for the first time in 11 years only a few weeks previously.

Within a week of that final skipper Gianluca Vialli had left for Chelsea, and soon after goalscorer Fabrizio Ravanelli had followed him to England and a season of unstinting drama at Middlesbrough. Defenders Pietro Vierchowod and Paulo Sousa - ironically sold to Borussia - were gone soon after that.

In their place came Croat Alen Boksic, Uruguayan Paolo Montero, Frenchman Zinedine Zidane and Italian Christian Vieri, Nicola Amoroso and a real indication of how far Juventus have progressed came in the semifinal of this season's competition against Ajax.

In last season's final Juventus outplayed Ajax but could only draw 1-1 and had to settle for an unsatisfying victory on penalties.

Last month Juventus beat Ajax 2-1 away and 4-1 at home for a defeat that left Ajax defender Frank de Boer conceding: "I have no doubt

Juventus will win in Munich. I can't remember when we last let in four goals in a European match. Juventus are like a team from another planet."

But although Lippi's side smugly overhauled favourites to defeat Dortmund and retain the trophy, they are taking absolutely nothing for granted against a squad containing five former Juve players.

Dortmund have made steady if unspectacular progress towards the final but with players such as European Footballer of the Year Matthias Sammer and experienced internationals Juergen Kohler, Stefan Reuter, Andreas Moeller, Stephane Chapuisat of Switzerland and Karlheinz Riedle in the squad, they will be no pushover.

Unlike Juventus who retained their domestic title at the weekend, Dortmund lost theirs to Bayern Munich, and have an extra incentive to win the match on "home" territory to get back into the European Cup next season as holders.

History favors Juventus who have beaten Dortmund three times in Europe over the past few seasons, including a record 6-1 aggregate win in the UEFA Cup final four years ago when no less than four of the five former Juventus players now at Dortmund played for the Italians.

Juventus are currently on a high octane mix of power, passion and sheer talent, driven from midfield by the French duo of Zidane and Didier Deschamps, who won the European Cup with Marseille in the Olympic Stadium in 1993.

Zidane has been a revelation after a slow start following last summer's transfer from Bordeaux and could well prove to be the difference between the sides.

## Hohns ready to decide Taylor's future

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Australia's chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns is ready to decide Mark Taylor's future as captain - but only if the team management with the team in England ask the sports national ruling body to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the out-of-form opener. Hohns said the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) would step in if a three-man panel of four selectors, including Taylor himself, cannot or will not take a decision.

Taylor's prolonged form slump has prompted a leadership crisis ahead of the six-test Ashes series against England, starting at Edgbaston on June 5.

The left-handed opener, who took over the captaincy from Allan Border three years ago, has failed to score a test 50 since late 1995, prompting intense speculation over his role despite Australia's strong test record over the past 12 months. "If we are asked, we would be prepared to make the decision about Mark's captaincy," Hohns said. Team selection for four matches and the test series was entrusted to a three-man selection panel comprising of Taylor, vice-captain Steve Waugh and coach Geoff Marsh.

Under such an arrangement, Waugh and Marsh could face the awkward task of forcing Taylor's hand unless his form improves or he stands down voluntarily.

Taylor's slump in form continued yesterday and he was out for nought in the three-day tour match against Gloucestershire.

## SCOREBOARD

INDY 500 - Arie Luyendyk won the Indianapolis 500 yesterday. Scott Goodyear finished second and rookie Jeff Ward was third ahead of last year's winner, Buddy Lazier.

CRICKET - Quarter-final results in the Benson and Hedges Cup yesterday: At Chelmsford: Surrey beat Essex by 6 wickets. Essex 214 all out in 45.5 overs (N.Hassim 52). Surrey 215-4 in 45.3 overs (G.Theopre 73, A.Brown 71).

At Canterbury: Kent beat Warwickshire by 4 wickets. Warwickshire 304-5 in 50 overs (M.Vaughan 85, R.Parker 55). Kent 306-4 in 49.3 overs (M.Walker 117).

At Leicester: Leicestershire beat Somerset by 20 runs. Leicestershire 197 all out in 46.2 overs (R.Smith 61, J.Walker 51). Somerset 177 all out in 47.5 overs.

At Headingley: Northamptonshire beat Yorkshire by 7 wickets. Yorkshire 253-9 in 50 overs (M.Vaughan 85, R.Parker 55). Northamptonshire 254-5 in 46 overs (R.Bell 78 not out, D.Capel 67).

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

## CLASSIFIEDS

## RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT.  
Single Weekday - NIS 128.70 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 12.87.  
FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY EVE - NIS 158.90 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 15.89.  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY (package) - NIS 292.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 29.25.  
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For telephone enquiries please call 02-5311544.

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## General

## WHERE TO STAY

THE JERUSALEM INN at the city Center - double or large family rooms, private bathroom, T.V./telephone, quality furnished. Tel. 02-625-2737, Fax: 02-525-1297.

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CENTRAL, LUXURIOUS FURNISHED 3.5 apartment, short/long term. Tel. 02-625-2080, 052-632-2265.

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SENIOR CITIZENS PROTECTED residence - Migdal Zahav - 2.5 rooms, Tabu, \$210,000. Tel. 02-563-0712.

OFFICE STAFF

SECRETARY, ENGLISH/HEBREW, MOTHER TONGUE ENGLISH + typing in WORD. Tel. 02-622-1128, fax.

RENTALS

2 ROOMS, PREFERRED location, equipped, from 12.6. Tel. 02-563-9662, fax: 02-563-9662.

FURNISHED HOUSE, BEIT Hanina, central heat, 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, modern kitchen, long term. Tel. 02-563-4758.

GERMAN COLONY, UNIQUE, 3 or 4, garden, basement, parking, long term. Immediate. (No commission). DIVIROLI SIANI. Tel. 02-623-6595.

HOUSE IN ABU TOR, 5 rooms, furnished + garden + beautiful view. Tel. 02-589-1830.

OLD KATAMON, 4, renovated, furnished, available from August. Shomrei Shabbat. Tel. 02-566-6902.

RAMBAN 10, 3, 2nd floor, central heat, apartment. Tel. 02-624-4162, ask about apartment.

REHAVIA, 3.5 FURNISHED, balcony, modern kitchen, A/C, 3rd, 5990. From July. Tel. 050-253-582 (NIS).

SALES

2.5 ROOMS, CENTER, (Shamir), elevator, \$185,000, no agents. Tel. 050-383464.

GERMAN COLONY, LARGE, unique 2.3 or 4, 4 bedrooms, garden, immediate (no commission). DIVIROLI SIANI. Tel. 02-661-8424.

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BEAUTIFUL STUDIO AND 2 room apartments, Ben Gurion Blvd., tourists / businessmen, short / long term. Tel. 03-696-9092, 050-558972.

TEL AVIV, HOLIDAY apartment. Sea view + finished, elevator, parking. Tel. 050-540-785.

RENTALS

3.5 ROOMS, PARTLY furnished, spacious, near Habima, parking. Tel. 03-685-7747, 05-567-2599.

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RAMAT AVIV GIMMEL, luxurious, 5, sea view, renovated, air conditioning, parking. No commission. Tel. 052-388-4746.

TEL AVIV - FOR tourists and businessmen. Exclusive, by the sea. Tel. 03-574-2844, 050-469942.

SALES

EZOREI CHEN, LUXURIOUS, 5 + balcony + sea view, high floor, YAEI REALTOR (MALDAN). Tel. (03) 642-6253.

JAFFA, OLD HOUSE, 180 sq.m., plans for 2 cottages. Tel. 050-507772.

DWELLINGS

Sharon Area

SALES/RENTALS

CAESAREA, LUXURIOUS HOUSE + pool, air conditioning. Opposite sea. Wonderful place. Tel. 050-221-725.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, HOUSE for sale/rent, 1/2 dunam, wonderful place. Attractive price. Tel. 050-231-725.

SALES

HERZLIYA PITUAH, OPPOSITE sea, holiday apartment + pool. \$268,000. OLIVIA. Tel. 03-959-3815.

## DWELLINGS

## Sharon Area

WANTED

FURNISHED HOUSE, HERZLIYA PITUAH, no children, 4 months starting 1/1/97. Tel. 03-567-2084, fax.

SITUATIONS VACANT

General

OFFICE STAFF

COMMERCIAL SECRETARY, FULL-TIME, spoken Hebrew, computer literate, Modem, area. Tel. 03-534-5392, 03-928-2066.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Jerusalem

HOUSEHOLD HELP

WARM YOUNG FAMILY seeks AU Pair to help with our 3 great kids in modern house near Jerusalem. Our previous AU Pairs from Norway and the USA loved being part of our family. Tel. 02-533-0345.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Tel Aviv

GENERAL

FOR SERVICE GARAGE - Cadillac, Buick. Needed: mechanic, electrician, retinal for stroom work, service clerks. V.I.P. Tel. 03-561-8335.

HOUSEHOLD HELP

SMALL, WARM FAMILY seeks experienced live-in maid, references. Tel. 03-648-1211, 03-647-4374.

8 MONTH TWIN boys seek loving au pair. Good conditions. Tel. 03-676-9080.

SOUTH-AFRICAN AU PAIR AGENCY is based, requires many South African/other live-in au pairs countrywide. Top conditions + high salary. Wonderful job opportunities. 03-619-0423.

IMMEDIATE JOBS AVAILABLE, friendly families, best conditions, the agency with a heart for the AU Pairs. Call Hima, Tel. (03) 966-9937.

GENEROUS ENGLISH FAMILY seeks South African au pair, live-in, central Tel Aviv, \$750 + NIS 200 immediate bonus. Tel. 052-452002.

METAPLET, PLEASANT FAMILY, high salary - Live-in / five-out. Good conditions. Tel. 03-637-1038.

OFFICE STAFF

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Sharon Area

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General

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AIWA MULTISYSTEM TV + VCR, NIS2200, Genie - Tel. 04-828-2828.

BOAT / YACHT - SEA-RAY (Sundancer) 330, 4 months old, new - \$155,000. \$135,000 O.N.O. contact Toby. Tel. 052-947-297.



## CRITIC'S CHOICE

## BALLET

HELEN KAYE

The Israel Festival starts today in Jerusalem with the legendary Kirov Ballet performing *Swan Lake* at the specially refurbished Sultan's Pool at 8 p.m. If you sit in the cheaper seats, bring binoculars to see better.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

It's opera time as three of our leading orchestras venture yet again into this much more demanding yet always popular art form. The Israel Chamber Orchestra hosts the Warsaw Chamber Opera in Mozart's rarely-performed *Zaide*. ICO music director Philippe Entremont is on the podium and the Warsaw singers appear on stage in full costumes. Tonight and tomorrow at the Tel Aviv Museum and Saturday at the Technion in Haifa (8:30), in German with Hebrew narration.

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Mendi Rodan presents a one-hour version of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* in Hebrew, with young Israeli singers in the main roles. Tomorrow (5:30) at the Marm Auditorium in Tel Aviv. The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra appears in the framework of the Israel Festival tomorrow (8:30) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall with a staged version of Stravinsky's Latin setting of *Oedipus Rex*. Assaf Levin directs with sets and costumes by Eitan Levi. Musical director David Shalton is on the podium.

## FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★ **THE ASSOCIATE** — A cheerfully commercial comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg as a high-powered financial analyst who runs her black, female-headed through Wall Street's glass ceiling. Donald



The Warsaw Chamber Opera presents Mozart's rarely-performed *Zaide*, in Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Petrie's film is much more peculiar than it looks at first glance. The picture has all the trappings of a TV sit-com: crisp punch lines, a perky soundtrack, a cast of cartoonish supporting players and an inevitable, overlong descent into broadly played physical farce (the movie features both female- and male-impersonators). But beneath the familiar clowning, the film also strikes a deep chord of sexual and racial unease. Goldberg's performance is so dry, unfurnished and quietly knowing, it knocks a serious hole through the script's jokey surface. This may be funny, but it's for real, she seems to be saying — no kidding. Also with Dianne Wiest. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

## TV

## CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash  
6:31 News in Arabic  
6:45 Exercise Time  
7:00 Good Morning Israel

## EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Last Ride to Wounded Knee  
8:30 How to Draw  
9:00 Social Sciences  
9:30 English  
9:45 For the young  
10:15 100 Years of Zionism  
11:15 Geography  
11:40 Judaism  
12:05 Music  
12:35 Science and Technology  
13:00 In the Heat of the Night  
14:00 Surprise Train  
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy  
14:35 Quentin Quack  
15:00 Animals

## CHANNEL 2

15:30 Motormice from Mars  
15:55 Body  
16:00 Garfield  
16:05 News in French  
16:50 Super Ben  
16:59 A New Evening  
17:34 Zappy Culture  
18:15 News in English

## ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Four Seasons  
19:00 News in Arabic

## HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News flash  
19:31 Jumbo  
20:00 News  
20:45 Quiz of the Century  
20:50 Conference Call  
21:25 The Cape  
22:05 Quiz of the Century (rpt)  
22:30 No Man's Land  
22:30 Pacific Station — 2000 series  
22:35 Quiz of the Century — solution and name of the winner  
23:30 News  
00:00 Daily Verse

## CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs  
6:58 Saturday Quest  
8:58 This Morning  
9:00 Rivka Michael  
9:55 Senora  
10:45 Dynasty  
11:40 Yaron London's Parliament  
12:45 Israeli music  
13:00 Kate and Allie  
13:30 Junior News  
14:00 The Kids of Degassi Street  
14:30 The Tac  
15:00 Ich and Mitch  
15:25 Madison  
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful  
17:00 News magazine with Rafi Rabin  
17:30 Sport  
18:00 Roseanne  
18:30 Touched by an Angel  
19:25 Blind Date  
20:00 News  
20:30 Wheel of Fortune  
21:05 A Quick Trip to the Supermarket — comedy with Sallie Rifkin, Part 2  
21:53 One Star Alone — documentary about singer Zehava Ben's performance  
22:40 The Cincinnati Kid (1965) — two rival cardsharps meet in New Orleans for a crucial game of poker.  
With Steve McQueen, Ann-Margret and Edward G. Robinson. Directed by Norman Jewison.  
00:00 News  
00:05 The Cincinnati Kid — continued  
1:40 Jam Session at Black and Blues  
2:44 Beadies About

## FAMILY CHANNEL

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine (rpt)  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Syss (rpt)  
8:00 Dallas (rpt)  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:00 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt)  
11:15 Zingari (rpt)  
12:00 Barney Jones  
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco  
13:35 Hope and Gloria  
14:00 Dallas  
14:50 Days of Our Lives  
15:35 The Nanny  
16:00 Hercules (rpt)  
16:45 Zingari  
17:30 Good Evening with Guy Pine  
18:00 Local broadcast  
18:30 One Life to Live  
19:15 The Young and the Restless  
20:00 Sunset Beach

## 3:06 On the Edge of the Shelf

## JORDAN TV

15:30 Holy Koran  
15:35 French programs  
16:00 America's Funniest People  
16:25 Spellbinder  
16:50 Forests of the World  
17:30 Border Town  
18:00 French programs  
18:30 News in French  
19:35 Grace Under Fire  
20:10 Challenges  
21:10 Spenser for Hire  
22:30 News in English  
23:30 Cobra  
23:15 Hart to Hart

## MOVIE CHANNEL

11:30 Shattered Silence (1992) (rpt)  
12:05 Seeking Stars  
13:55 Empty Cradle (1993) (rpt)  
15:25 Letters From the East (1985) — after her father's death, a woman discovers letters from her mother who was left behind in Estonia when they came to England and returns there to find her.

## MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop  
14:30 The 700 Club  
15:00 Garber  
15:30 Dennis the Menace  
16:00 Larry King  
17:00 Family Challenge  
17:45 Beakman's World  
18:20 Perfect Strangers  
18:30 Saved by the Bell  
19:00 Showbiz  
19:30 World News  
20:00 News  
20:05 Coach  
20:25 Dave's World  
20:50 Newhart  
21:15 Moby Dick  
21:35 The Simpsons  
22:30 CNN  
23:30 The 700 Club  
00:00 Quantum Shopping

## CABLE

## ITV 3 (33)

18:00 Power Rangers  
18:30 Animal Detectives  
19:00 Are You Being Served?  
19:30 From Day to Day  
19:30 Har Majesty's  
19:30 News in Arabic  
19:30 Documentary in Russian  
20:00 News  
20:45 Just for Laughs  
21:15 Gilbert Becou  
22:00 The Detectives  
23:30 Zui at Zenith  
23:35 Entertainment News

## ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now  
16:00 Homeland  
16:30 Pillar of Fire  
17:30 Palettes  
18:00 Dies Mol Tout  
18:30 Family Reunion  
19:00 Mind Your Language  
19:30 Vis à Vis  
20:00 A New Evening  
20:30 Secret Arabie  
21:00 Star Trek: Deep Space 9  
21:45 Death By Design  
22:45 Zombi  
23:15 Israeli Pop

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## 20:50 Metros Place

21:40 Proffer — new NBC drama series  
22:30 Love Story with Yossi Syss  
23:00 Seinfeld — first season  
23:25 Babylon 5  
00:15 EN5  
00:50 Newsroom  
1:05 Barney Jones

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11:30 Shattered Silence (1992) (rpt)  
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## PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	News flash Jukebox					Fun on Six
20:00	News	News	Sunset Beach			
20:30	Quiz of the Century Conference Call	Wheel of Fortune	Melrose Place			
21:00	The Cape	A Quick Trip to the Supermarket	Proffer			
21:30	Quiz of the Century (rpt)	One Star Alone	Love Story with Yossi Syss			
22:00	No Man's Land					
22:30	Pacific Station					
23:00						

Zukerman in Santa Fe  
10:50 Xena, part 1 — Baroque opera by Handel  
13:10 Cats and Dogs  
13:50 Plants and People: Coca (rpt)  
14:00 Mysteries, Magic, Miracles: Hallelujah Hollywood  
15:00 The X-Files  
15:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
21:00 Santa Barbara  
22:00 Star News  
22:30 L.A. Law  
23:30 Picket Fences  
00:30 Vegas  
1:30 Oprah Winfrey  
2:30 Barnaby Jones

13:30 Lost in Space  
14:30 Black Beauty  
15:00 Charles in Charge  
15:30 Madeleine  
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# Hanegbi: Conversion bill to go ahead

By LIAT COLLINS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi reportedly told a coalition meeting yesterday that the legislation for a conversion law would continue unless a compromise could be found.

At the same meeting, Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan criticized the Reform and Conservative movements for not withdrawing their petitions to the High Court to recognize conversions carried out by them in Israel. The coalition is expected to discuss the matter again today.

MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), who chairs the Knesset Law Committee, said his committee

would continue to work to ready the bill for its final reading. Eitan stressed that the discussions would be on the narrower version of the bill. This version would, in effect, anchor in law the current status quo in which Israel recognizes non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad but not those carried out here.

The bill passed first reading at the end of March, after Eitan promised that the legislation would then be frozen as long as the Reform and Conservative movements suspended their court actions. Yesterday he said that not only had the judicial procedures continued, but that new petitions had been added.

"I blame the Reform and Conservative

movements for aspiring to force their opinion on the Israeli public - and to oblige it to recognize their conversions carried out in Israel despite the fact that the High Court has on several occasions ordered the Knesset to determine whether or not this is legal," Eitan said.

According to a previous High Court decision, the Knesset has until the end of next month to determine who is responsible for conversions in Israel, the chief rabbinate alone or non-Orthodox streams as well.

"The sword of the High Court is still hanging over us," Eitan said, adding that the coalition would probably have to give the go-ahead for the bill's continued passage.

Yesterday's coalition meeting was so stormy that it had to be recessed briefly to allow MKs to calm down. MKs from the religious parties said the High Court decision scheduled for June 30 left no choice but to legislate the bill and noted it is part of the coalition agreement. Other MKs, including Meir Sheerit (Likud), said there is tremendous opposition to the bill among world Jewry, particularly in North America.

MK Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) presented the coalition MKs with a review of his efforts to find a compromise. He hinted that his party would not support the bill, saying: "When we signed the coalition agreement we did not correctly estimate the implications for the Jewish

world and the harm it could cause the State and People of Israel. I think the obligations to the People of Israel and the whole State is greater than that to the coalition agreement, which will make it difficult for us to support [the bill]."

Yisrael Ba'aliya also is divided over the issue. Yahalom said the bill would be readied shortly.

"After all efforts to find a compromise failed, there is no doubt that the coalition is bound to the bill," he said. Shas MKs again threatened to leave the coalition if it fails to pass.

"I don't think the Jewish world or US Jewry will collapse," said Yitzhak Cohen (Shas).

## US Christians protest Knesset bill limiting missionary activity

By HILDE KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - American Christian fundamentalists are peppering Israel's diplomatic corps here with protests over a proposed Knesset law to limit missionary activity.

In the past two weeks, Israel has received a wave of letters and telegrams, and envoys have been engaged in damage control.

The campaign began when Galtronics of Athens, Georgia, a fully owned subsidiary of Tiberias-based Galtronics, wrote to Georgia Sens. Max Cleland and Paul Coverdel and Congressman Jon Linder, urging them to help fight the Israeli legislation.

The bill is sponsored by MKs Nissim Zivili (Labor) and Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism).

The bill is an amendment to an existing law, which bans missionary activity but does not specify the spreading of leaflets and fliers that encourage conversion. In explaining the bill, Gafni and Zivili wrote that the State of Israel opposes missionary activity and tempting someone to convert, particularly minors.

"Lately missionary sects have been trying to encourage conversion by spreading fliers, mail, and other material which arrives against the wishes of the recipient. The legislators did not consider this serious phenomenon and therefore

there is a need for this amendment to the bill," they wrote.

The bill proposes a one-year prison sentence for "unlawfully holding, printing, copying, spreading, distributing, or importing material which has an element of proselytizing." Gafni stressed that there is "no truth to reports that the law would ban someone from having or reading the New Testament." The protests have come mainly from Christian groups in the "Bible belt" of the South. Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions recently raised the matter with Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar. In addition, a group of fundamentalists demonstrated against the bill in front of the Israeli Embassy last Wednesday.

"These are fundamentalist Christians who support Israel on religious grounds. But they see [the bill] as hurting Christians in Israel, their freedom of expression, and hurting pro-Israel Christians in the US," a US-based Israeli diplomat said.

Embassy officials said they have clear instructions from Jerusalem to respond by stating that the bill is merely a preliminary state, is a privately-sponsored initiative, and is not supported by the government.

The Zivili-Gafni bill passed preliminary reading on February 19 and is expected to be discussed soon in the Law Committee.

Liav Collins contributed to this report



### Impressive find

Vats dating back 3,800 years ago are displayed by (from left) Nir Auerbach, Shai Frank, Ofer Armoni, and Itai Oren, who recently found a trove of artifacts in a cave at Titorah Hill, Modi'in. The 16-year-olds, who are from Reut and Maccabim, crawled 45 meters into the cave, whose height only reaches 25 cm. at certain points. They immediately alerted the Antiquities Authority, taking care not to disturb the artifacts. The authority is now holding a "Antiquities Preservation Week," which opened at the Knesset yesterday.

(Brian Hendler)

## Head of Haifa Licensing Bureau arrested

The head of the Licensing Bureau in Haifa and the North, Meir Danielli, was arrested yesterday on suspicion of accepting bribes, obstructing justice, and breach of trust.

The owner of a Haifa driving school also was arrested, bringing the number of people arrested in the licensing scandal to 24. He is suspected of bribery and of attacking a driving instructor who complained to police about him.

Both men's remand hearings are scheduled in Haifa Magistrate's Court today.

Adi Aloni, 47, of Haifa, who owns a driving school, was remanded for eight days by Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday. At the hearing, police said that over the past two years, they have received reports that Aloni has forged requests for licenses for dozens of people in Haifa and Hadera.

Meanwhile, the Transport Ministry said it is going to send driving examiners to the North from other districts, because almost all of the examiners in the North are suspected of being involved in the scandal. Fifteen examiners have been arrested.

The supervisor of driving examiners, who was arrested on Monday, was released yesterday afternoon after being questioned. (Itim)

## Beit She'an mayor acquitted

Beit She'an Mayor Shlomo Ben-Lulu was acquitted of extortion charges by Nazareth District Court yesterday.

Ben-Lulu was accused of ordering the payment of NIS 1,000 to Herzl Ben-Sabo, a member of the municipality's workers' committee, in exchange for his resignation.

The affair began in 1991, when Ben-Sabo was suspended from his municipal job, after it was discovered that he was also working for the Education Ministry without having obtained permission from the municipality. The case was taken to labor court, where a compromise was reached under which Ben-Sabo's suspension was shortened and other steps were allowed.

The municipality then decided to deduct from Ben-Sabo's pay payment for overtime and other

benefits he had illegally received. However, negotiations were begun with Ben-Lulu and the municipal finance department to have this money returned to Ben-Sabo. Ben-Lulu allegedly demanded that he resign his union post in return.

In his verdict, Judge Avraham Asa wrote: "I have no doubt that the complainant brought pressure to bear to have the money repaid to him, however I do have doubts that he ever received the money from the municipality."

After the verdict, Ben-Lulu noted that the testimony phase of the trial had been completed in July 1995, and said that he had gone through a horrible two years while waiting for the verdict. He also called on the Northern District district attorney to carefully examine everything relating to the investigation of public figures. (Itim)

## Ben-Ari loses appeal against remand

By RAINE MARCUS

Tel Aviv District Court rejected an appeal yesterday by the alleged head of the so-called Russian mafia Zvi Ben-Ari, who demanded to be

released on bail.

The court ruled that police have sufficient evidence to warrant Ben-Ari's continued remand. Ben-Ari is suspected of involvement in the murder of a banker in Russia, a \$85 million bank fraud there, and other crimes.

Meanwhile, Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court Judge Yeshayahu Shmeller ordered police to return NIS

20,000 to the company owned by Ben-Ari and managed by another suspect in the case, Felix Heimsky. When Ben-Ari, Heimsky and four others were arrested, the National Crimes Squad confiscated equipment and cash from the company.

Heimsky's lawyer, Moshe Aloni, petitioned the court, insisting that the equipment is essential for the running of the company and should be

returned. Shmeller ordered police to return the equipment on Monday. Aloni also argued that police had no right to confiscate the money since salaries must be paid and monies in police hands would affect the running of the company.

Heimsky, Ben-Ari and four others are expected to appear in Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court again tomorrow.

## Libel law changes delayed one year

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

The Knesset Law Committee has decided to delay for one year the second and third readings of an amendment to the libel law, following objections from the media and the legal community.

The proposed amendment, introduced by Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) would ban publication of a suspect's religious, sectarian, or ethnic background unless it is specifically linked to the crime of which he is suspected. Such publication would be considered libelous.

"Basically the law would incorporate the relevant regulations of the Press Council's code of ethics," Gafni explained. "It is a slur to say, for example, 'An Arab was caught stealing a vehicle.' There are criminals in every community. This is casting aspersions on an entire public which has nothing to do with the individual's crime."

But if a paper writes that 'haredim demonstrated on Rehov Bar-Ilan,' this is relevant because otherwise people could think the demonstrators were from Meretz."

Zvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'aliya) supported Gafni's proposal, saying that the olim from the former Soviet Union have been systematically stigmatized by the media.

A Justice Ministry representative said that the ministry opposes the law, although it has the support of the government because of promises to Yisrael Ba'aliya.

The law against libel already covers cases of ethnic and religious slurs, she said, and excessive legislation could have "a chilling effect" on journalists who wish to write about social issues.

She was supported by representatives of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, the Israel Bar Association, and the media.

Debi Zucker (Meretz) proposed that the matter be put back in the hands of the Press Council. This was enthusiastically supported by council head and former justice minister Haim Zadok. Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) said it was clear that that Zucker's proposal would be accepted. He therefore recommended that any complaints of slurs be addressed to the council in the coming year. During this period, he said, the draft law would be reexamined.

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WEATHER		Golden 17-25
Haifa 19-28	Thessalon 18-25	
Ashdod 18-31		
Samaritan 18-23		
Tel Aviv 20-27		
Jerusalem 18-25		
Beer Sheva 18-31		
Dead Sea 23-30		
Eilat 26-30		

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	low	high	prob
Amsterdam	10	15	cloudy
Berlin	10	15	cloudy
Buenos Aires	10	15	cloudy
Caracas	10	15	cloudy
Chicago	10	15	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	15	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	15	cloudy
Geneva	10	15	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	29	clear
Jakarta	24	29	clear
London	10	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	10	15	cloudy
Madrid	10	15	cloudy
Moscow	10	15	cloudy
New York	10	15	cloudy
Paris	10	15	cloudy
Rome	10	15	cloudy
Stockholm	10	15	cloudy
Sydney	10	15	cloudy
Tokyo	10	15	cloudy
Toronto	10	15	cloudy
Vancouver	10	15	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	cloudy

### Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the king of spades, ace of hearts, 10 of diamonds and king of clubs; and the ace of spades, eight of hearts, queen of diamonds and seven of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Lotto draw, the winning numbers were 7, 22, 23, 35, 41 and 47 and the additional number was 45.